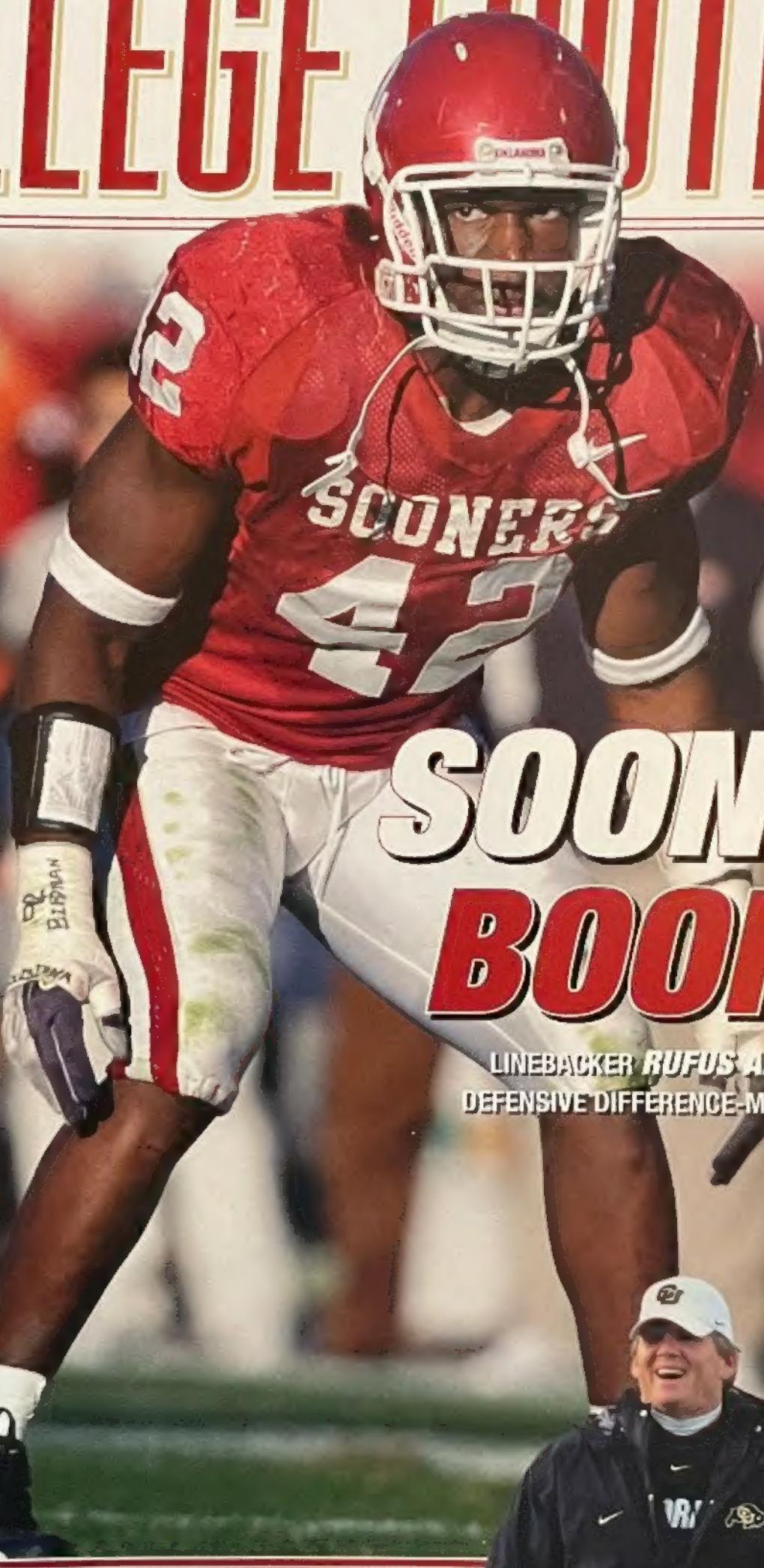
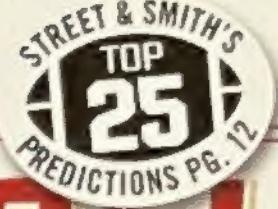


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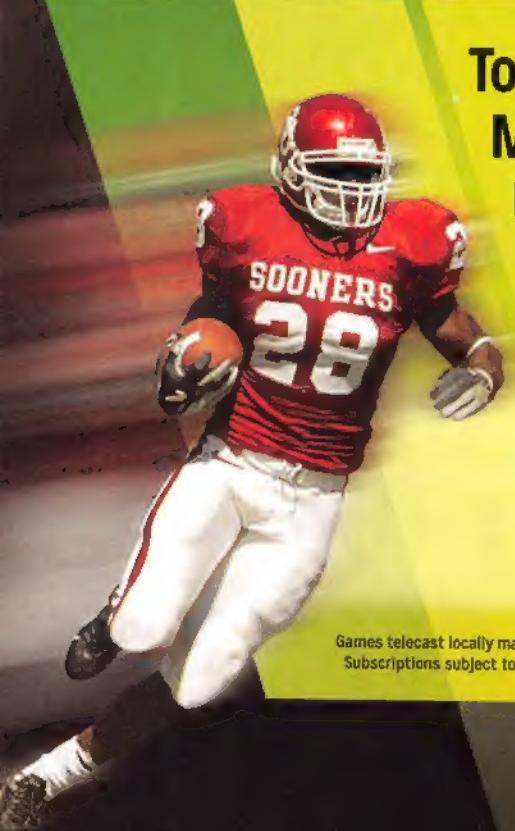
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**Add to Cart****Getting better connected**

There's a world map up in my office with red dots on every country that has e-mailed or called requesting a *Street & Smith's* yearbook. What began as a curiosity is now a real conversation piece as I explain to visitors how someone in Uruguay found out about us and what it was they were looking for.

In addition to Uruguay, we've sent magazines to New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Venezuela, Peru and all of Europe.

Until now, ordering magazines for those folks has been a difficult proposition. It has required an e-mail to us, which we forward to our distribution department, which then contacts the overseas customer and works out a payment method. A few weeks later, hopefully, they'll get the magazine.

Of course, it hasn't been exactly been easy for our loyal readers who are state-side. Everyone on our staff fields calls and e-mails every day from folks who want to know when our latest issue will hit newsstands, where they can find it when it does or, the most distressing, why they can't find it at a local store after our publication date.

There's nothing more frustrating for a reader than to want to purchase a

publication and not be able to locate it. Conversely, there's nothing more frustrating for a publisher than to have a motivated buyer unable to make that purchase.

Well, we're happy to say that both factions' lives just got a bit easier. Now you can log on to our Web site, [www.streetandsmiths.com](http://www.streetandsmiths.com), and order magazines directly online through our newly designed shopping cart. You can also order back issues if you're one of the many collectors of *Street & Smith's* publications and you need to fill in a missing year of *College Football* in your stash.

Many of you who call the office request a specific cover. As some of you know, most of our yearbooks have as many as 20 different regional covers, depending on the sport. So, if you're a Texas alum living in Southern California, you now have the option of getting your copy of S&S early, but with a Longhorn rather than a Trojan on the cover, as would be the case if you simply made the trip to a newsstand in Los Angeles.

Now, if you don't have access to the World Wide Web, you can still call us toll-free at 1-800-380-7404 weekdays (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET) to order magazines or to find out which newsstand near you carries *Street & Smith's*.

Of course, there aren't many of us who aren't connected to the Internet anymore, whether it be at work or home. We're hopeful that this new feature to our Web site will connect our readers to us better than they've ever been linked before.

And, as always, we appreciate your business.

**SCOTT SMITH**  
 EDITOR

**ON DECK:**

**JULY:** *Street & Smith's Fantasy Football*

**SEPTEMBER:** *Street & Smith's Pro Basketball*

**OCTOBER:** *Street & Smith's College Basketball*

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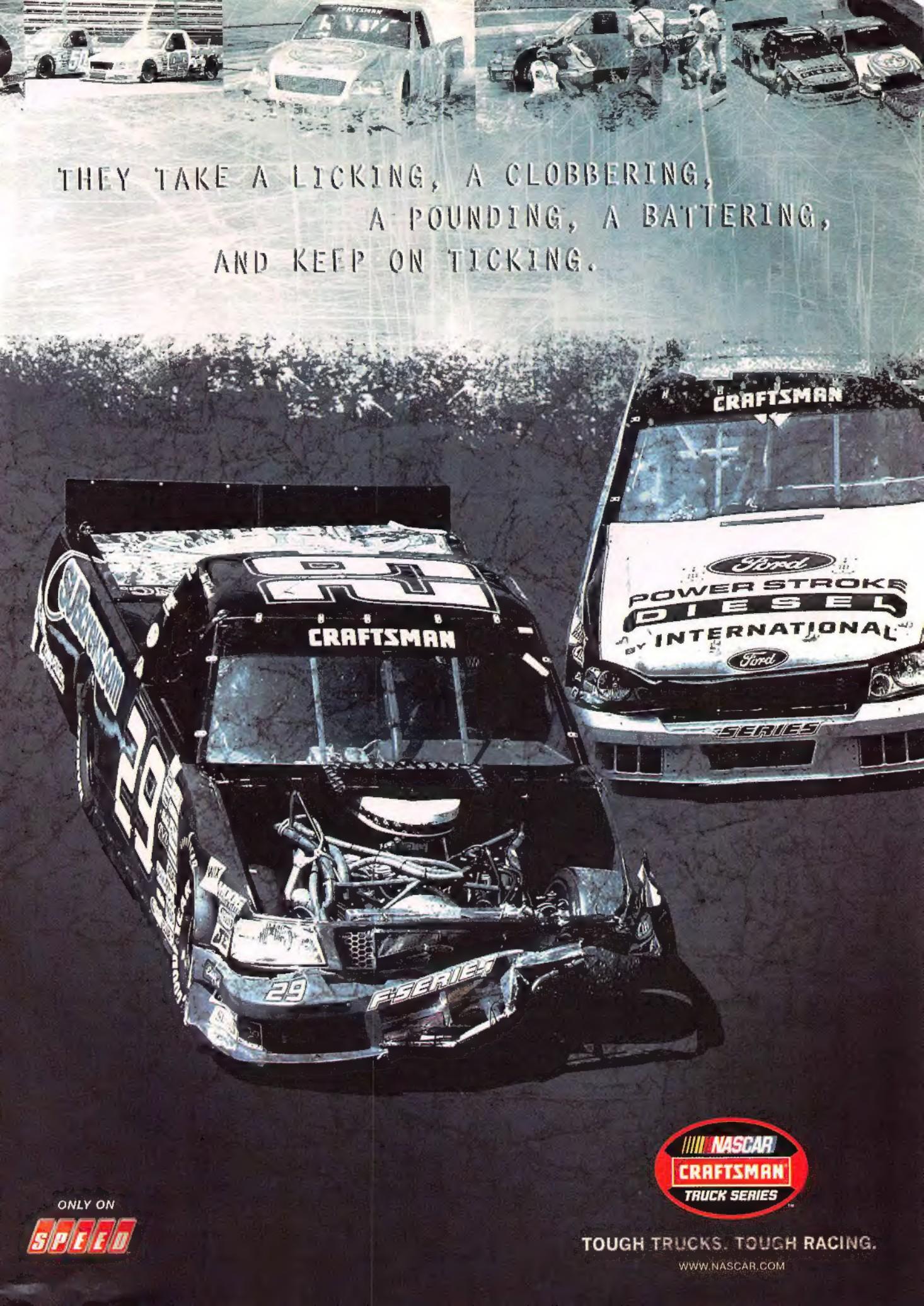
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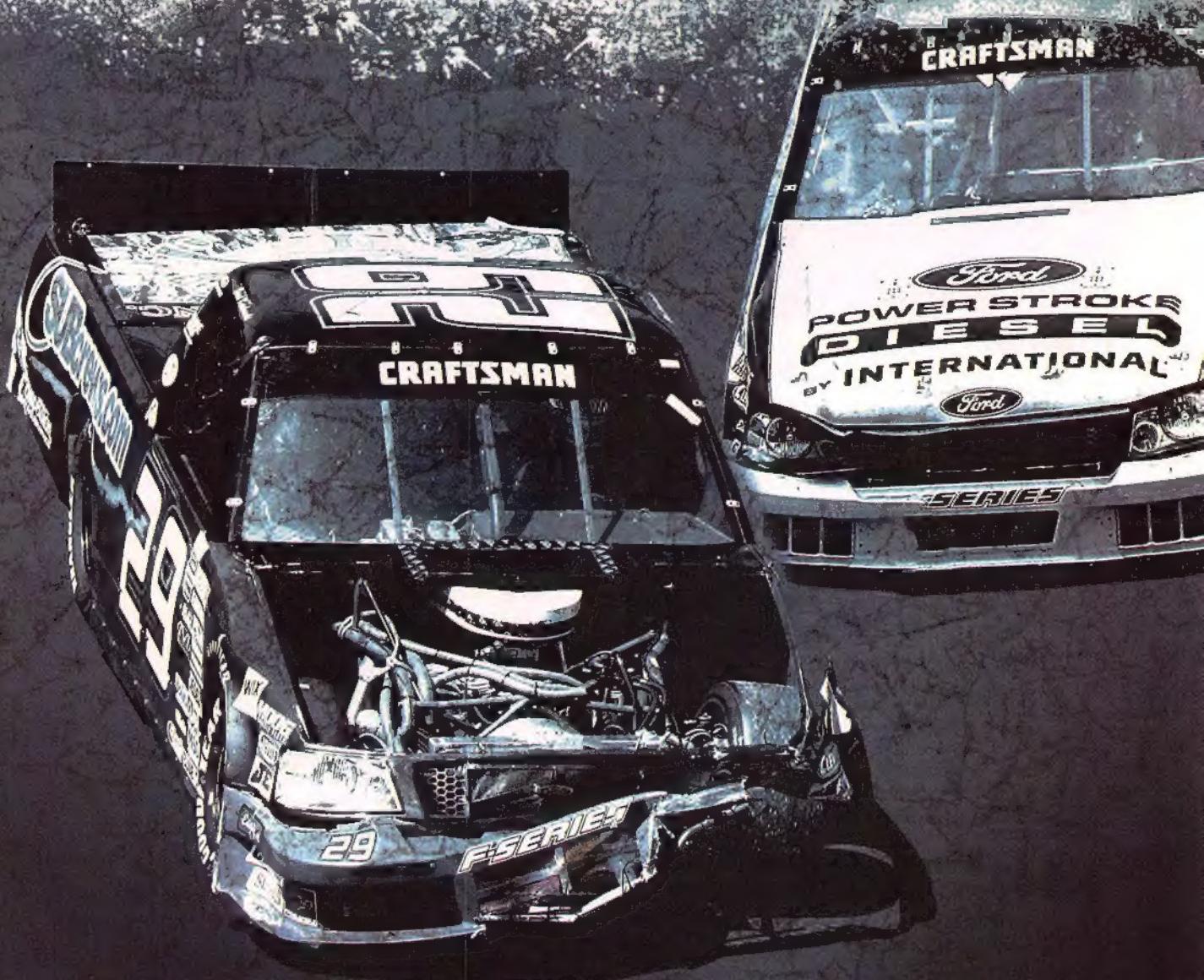
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THEY TAKE A LICKING, A CLOBBERING,  
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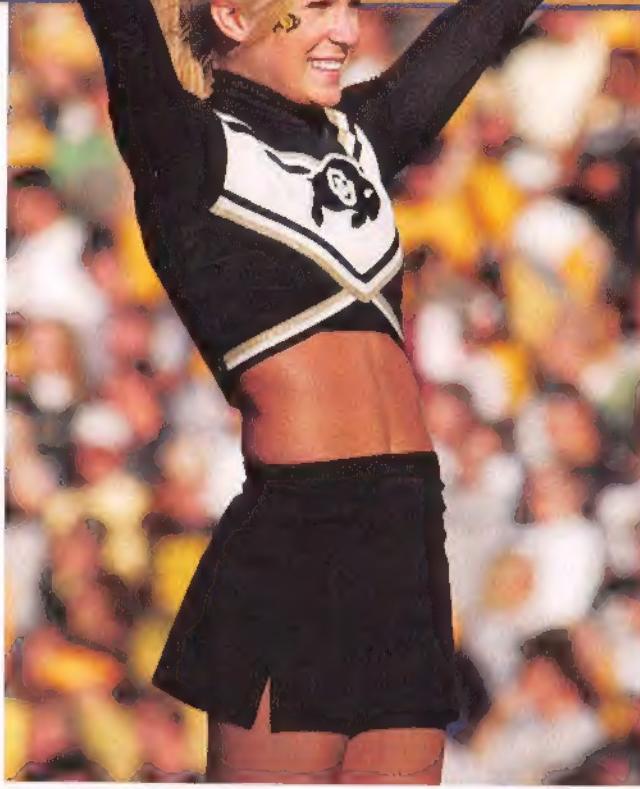
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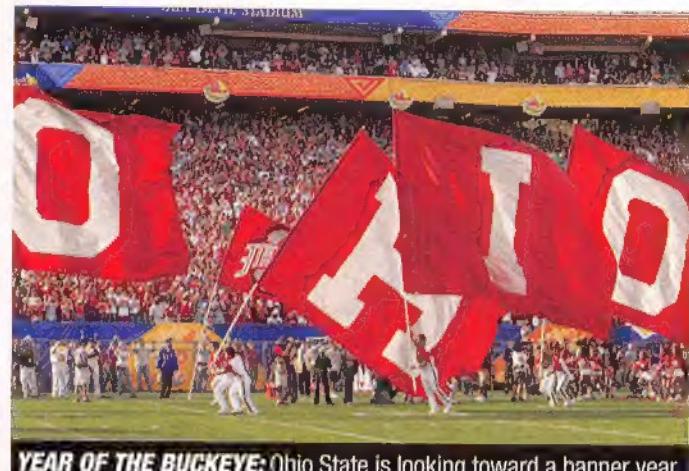
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**YEAR OF THE BUCKEYE:** Ohio State is looking toward a banner year



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**Jim Hurley**  
Founder & President - Jim Hurley's Network

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This is why our ATM games (All The Money) lived up to their name last year.

### Check the highlights:

S17	Mich St (+6)	Notre Dame	44-41	<b>W</b>
S19	Redskins (+6)	Cowboys	14-13	<b>W</b>
	Redskins / Cowboys	+35%	14-13	<b>W</b>
O22	Kentucky (+10)	Ole Miss	7-13	<b>W</b>
O29	Oklahoma (-2)	Nebraska	31-24	<b>W</b>
N19	Oklahoma (+7 1/2)	Tex Tech	21-23	<b>W</b>
D 3	Georgia (+1 1/2)	LSU	34-14	<b>W</b>
D17	Patriots (-6)	Bucs	28-0	<b>W</b>
D18	Chargers (+7 1/2)	Colts	26-17	<b>W</b>
J 2	Alabama (+3 1/2)	Tex Tech	13-10	<b>W</b>
J 8	Panthers (+3)	Giants	23-0	<b>W</b>

Since '85, we have won virtually every year. Some decent, some really good, and some so glorious they belong in the time capsule. And that's what I want to talk to you about now.

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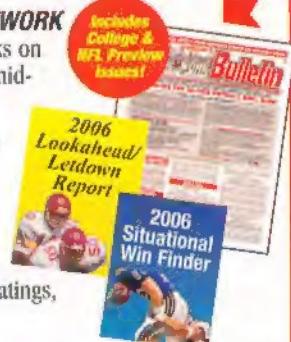
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- **MY SEPTEMBER GAME OF THE YEAR-** my biggest play of all. Won in '05 with Michigan State (+5) over Notre Dame 44-41. PLUS October, November and December Games of the Year, too
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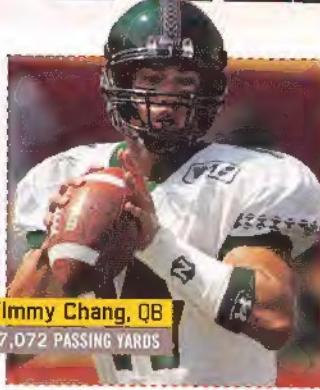
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# TARGETS

A look at college football's all-time Division I-A leaders and this year's players looking to challenge them.  
—statistics courtesy of NCAA



**Timmy Chang, QB**

17,072 PASSING YARDS

## PASSING YARDS

**Timmy Chang, Hawaii** 17,072

Ty Detmer, Brigham Young	15,031
Philip Rivers, N.C. State	13,484
Tim Rattay, Louisiana Tech	12,746
Luke McCown, Louisiana Tech	12,666
Chris Redman, Louisville	12,541
Kliff Kingsbury, Texas Tech	12,429
Byron Leftwich, Marshall	11,903
David Greene, Georgia	11,528
Gino Guidugli, Cincinnati	11,453
Todd Santos, San Diego State	11,425
Carson Palmer, USC	11,388
Tim Lester, Western Michigan	11,299
Derek Anderson, Oregon State	11,249
Peyton Manning, Tennessee	11,201
Eric Zeier, Georgia	11,153
Charlie Frye, Akron	11,049
Ryan Schneider, Central Florida	10,976
Alex Van Pelt, Pittsburgh	10,913
Drew Brees, Purdue	10,909
David Neill, Nevada	10,903
Danny Wuerffel, Florida	10,875
Ben Roethlisberger, Miami (Ohio)	10,829
Chad Pennington, Marshall	10,698
Dan Orlovsky, Connecticut	10,706
Matt Leinart, USC	10,593
Kevin Sweeney, Fresno State	10,523
Andrew Walter, Arizona State	10,517
Brett Basanez, Northwestern	10,580
Doug Flutie, Boston College	10,579
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### Knocking on the door (active career leaders)

KEVIN KOLB, Houston	9,155
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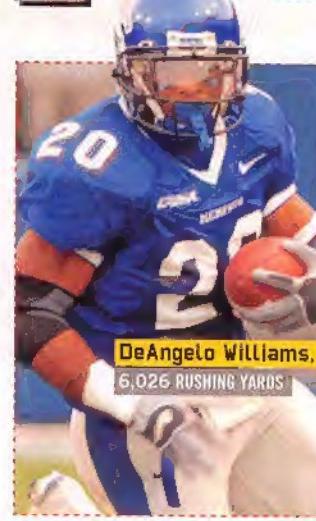
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Geoff Noisy, Nevada

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Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech

Darius Watts, Marshall

Aaron Turner, Pacific

Chad Mackay, Louisiana Tech

Terance Mathis, New Mexico

Mark Templeton, Long Beach State

J.R. Tolver, San Diego State

Howard Twilley, Tulsa

Marcus Harris, Wyoming

Wes Welker, Texas Tech

Derek Hagan, Arizona State

Braylon Edwards, Michigan

Jovon Bouknight, Wyoming

John Standeford, Purdue

Nate Burleson, Nevada

James Jordan, Louisiana Tech

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Kendall Newson, Middle Tennessee

Dante Ridgeway, Ball State

Reggie Williams, Washington

Marc Zeno, Tulane

Steve Neal, Western Michigan

Jason Wolf, Southern Methodist

*Knocking on the door (active career leaders)*

ERIC DESLAURIERS, Eastern Michigan

JARRETT HICKS, Texas Tech

STEVE ODOM, Toledo

174

173

170

## RECEIVING YARDS

**Trevor Insley, Nevada** 5,005

Marcus Harris, Wyoming	4,518
Rashaun Woods, Oklahoma State	4,414
Ryan Yarbrough, Wyoming	4,357
Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech	4,352
Aaron Turner, Pacific	4,345
Terance Mathis, New Mexico	4,254
Geoff Noisy, Nevada	4,249
Darius Watts, Marshall	4,031
Troy Walters, Stanford	3,986
Derek Hagan, Arizona State	3,939
Mike Hass, Oregon State	3,924
Josh Davis, Marshall	3,889
Roy Williams, Texas	3,866
Chad Mackey, Louisiana Tech	3,789
Marc Zeno, Tulane	3,725
Brandon Stokley, La.-Lafayette	3,702
Arnold Jackson, Louisville	3,670
David Anderson, Colorado State	3,634
Jovon Bouknight, Wyoming	3,626
John Standeford, Purdue	3,618

### Knocking on the door (active career leaders)

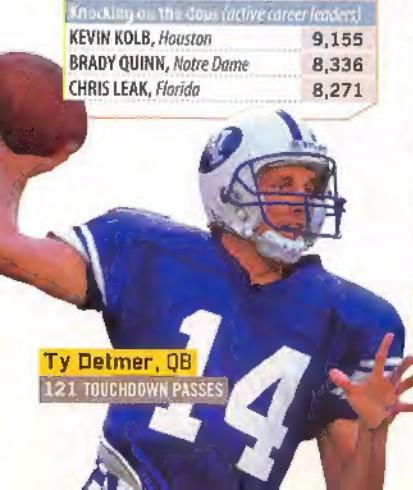
CHRIS LEAK, Florida	65
JORDAN PALMER, UTEP	62
BRADY QUINN, Notre Dame	58

### Knocking on the door (active career leaders)

JARRETT HICKS, Texas Tech	2,525
RYNE ROBINSON, Miami (Ohio)	2,519
ERIC DESLAURIERS, E. Michigan	2,352

2,525 RECEIVING YARDS

46



**Ty Detmer, QB**

121 TOUCHDOWN PASSES



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AND Walter Camp  
FOOTBALL FOUNDATION**

**2006**

**ALL★AMERICA**



**ALL★AMERICA**

**FIRST TEAM ★**

**OFFENSE**

QB	Brady Quinn SR Notre Dame
RB	Adrian Peterson JR Oklahoma
RB	Marshawn Lynch JR California
WR	Dwayne Jarrett JR USC
WR	Jeff Samardzija SR Notre Dame
OL	Justin Blalock SR Texas
OL	Sam Baker JR USC
OL	Arron Sears SR Tennessee
OL	Ryan Kalil SR USC
OL	Mark Fenton SR Colorado
TE	Greg Olsen JR Miami
PK	Mason Crosby SR Colorado
KR	Brandon Tate SO North Carolina

**DEFENSE**

DL	Quentin Moses SR Georgia
OL	Chris Long JR Virginia
DL	LaMarr Woodley SR Michigan
DL	Lawrence Jackson JR USC
LB	Paul Posluszny SR Penn State
LB	Desmond Bishop SR California
LB	Patrick Willis SR Mississippi
DB	Brandon Meriweather SR Miami
DB	Leon Hall SR Michigan
DB	Darrelle Revis JR Pittsburgh
DB	LaRon Landry SR LSU
P	Daniel Sepulveda SR Baylor



## SECOND TEAM

### OFFENSE

QB	Chris Leak SR Florida
RB	Kenny Irons SR Auburn
RB	Earl Bennett SO Vanderbilt
WR	Calvin Johnson JR Georgia Tech
OL	Daniel Inman SR Georgia
DL	Levi Brown SR Penn State
DL	Jake Long SR Michigan
OL	Joe Thomas SR Wisconsin
OL	Josh Beekman SR Boston College
TE	Matt Spaeth SR Minnesota
PK	Alexis Serna JR Oregon State
KR	Tim Nixon SR California

### DEFENSE

DL	C.-J. Ah You SR Oklahoma
DL	Ken Iwehema JR Iowa
DL	Nu'u Tafisi SR California
DL	Baraka Atkins SR Miami
LB	Rufus Alexander SR Oklahoma
LB	Keith Rivers JR USC
LB	Anthony Waters SR Clemson
DB	Marcus Hamilton SR Virginia
DB	Tom Zbikowski SR Notre Dame
DB	Michael Griffin SR Texas
P	Davoneion Hughes SR California
P	Ken DeBauche JR Wisconsin

## THIRD TEAM

### OFFENSE

DB	Troy Smith SR Ohio State
RB	Tyrell Sutton SO Northwestern
RB	Garrett Wolfe SR Northern Illinois
WR	Sidney Rice SD South Carolina
WR	Jean Hill SR Washington State
OL	Ryan Harris SR Notre Dame
OL	Steve Valios SR Wake Forest
OL	Enoka Lucas SR Oregon
OL	Tanner Jenkins SR Arkansas State
OL	Kyle Young SR Fresno State
TE	Clark Harris SR Rutgers
PK	Brandon Coutu JR Georgia
KR	Willie Foster SR Rutgers

### DEFENSE

DL	Brandon Mebane SR California
DL	Kevin Brown JR UCLA
DL	Victor Abiamiri SR Notre Dame
DL	Mikristo Bruce SR Washington State
LB	Buster Davis SR Florida State
LB	H.B. Blades SR Pittsburgh
LB	Dave Harris SR Michigan
DB	J.D. Nelson SR Oregon
JH	David Irons SR Auburn
DB	Eric Wicks SR West Virginia
DB	Josh Wilson SR Maryland
P	Jimmie Taylor JR Colorado State

PETERSON, PAUL MUSIENIK, JON SMITH, POSLUSZNY, SEPUEDRA, JOHN WILHELMSEN, MOSES, JEFF ROBINSON, OLSEN, KEVIN REECE / JOHN SNI

PELTER

SI

# 2006 ALL-AMERICANS

## HONORABLE MENTION

### QUARTERBACKS

Kyle Wright JR Miami  
Chad Henne JR Michigan  
JaMarcus Russell JR LSU  
Drew Tate SR Iowa  
Brian Brohm JR Louisville  
Reggie Ball SR Georgia Tech  
Tyler Palko SR Pittsburgh  
Trent Edwards SR Stanford  
Drew Weatherford SO Florida St.  
Kevin Kolb JR Houston  
Patrick White SO West Virginia  
Drew Stanton SR Michigan State  
Sam Keller SR Arizona State  
Sam Hollenbach SR Maryland  
John Stocco SR Wisconsin  
Zac Taylor SR Nebraska  
Jordan Palmer SR UTEP  
Colt Brennan JR Hawaii  
Bret Meyer JR Iowa State  
John Beck SR BYU  
Isaiah Stanback SR Washington  
Jared Zabransky SR Boise State  
Clint Marks SR Middle Tennessee  
Shaun Carney JR Air Force  
Jeff Rowe SR Nevada

### RUNNING BACKS

Yvenson Bernard JR Oregon St.  
Darren McFadden SO Arkansas  
Tyrone Moss SR Miami  
James Davis SO Clemson  
Thomas Brown JR Georgia  
Jamaal Charles SO Texas  
Mike Hart JR Michigan  
Rafael Little JR Kentucky  
Courtney Lewis SR Texas A&M  
Chris Markey JR UCLA  
Steve Slaton SO West Virginia  
Kyle Bell JR Colorado State  
Lorenzo Booker SR Florida State  
Aaron Brown SO TCU  
Ahmad Bradshaw JR Marshall  
Mico McSwain SO Mississippi

Mike Hamilton SO Oklahoma St.  
Tony Hunt SR Penn State  
Raymell Rice SO Rutgers  
Pierre Thomas SR III nois  
Curtis Brown SR BYU  
Albert Young JR Iowa  
Rudy Burgess JR Arizona State  
Michael Bush SR Louisville  
Tyrell Fenroy SO La.-Lafayette  
Jamario Thomas JR North Texas  
Lance Ball JR Maryland

### WIDE RECEIVERS

Steve Smith SR USC  
Chansi Stuckey SR Clemson  
Jarrett Hicks SR Texas Tech  
Aundrea Allison SR East Carolina  
D.J. Hall JR Alabama  
Joe Cowan SR UCLA  
Dominique Zeigler SR Baylor  
Michael Thomas SO Arizona  
Ted Ginn Jr. JR Ohio State  
Vincent Marshall JR Houston  
Robert Johnson SR Texas Tech  
Caleb Spencer SR Nevada  
Michael Bumpus JR Washington St.  
Dorien Bryant JR Purdue  
Tony Pennyman SR Utah State  
Todd Blythe JR Iowa State  
Devone Bess SO Hawaii  
Joel Filani SR Texas Tech  
Brent Casteel SO Utah  
Derrick Williams SO Penn State  
Paul Williams SR Fresno State  
Mario Urrutia SO Louisville  
James Hardy SO Indiana  
Ryan Grice-Mullen SO Hawaii

### OFFENSIVE LINE

Leroy Harris SR N.C. State  
Adam Spieker JR Missouri  
Shannon Tevaga JR UCLA  
Cory Niblock SR Florida State  
Jeremy Perry SO Oregon State  
Manuel Ramirez SR Texas Tech  
Brian Chacos SR North Carolina  
Brian Stamper SR Vanderbilt  
Corey Hilliard SR Oklahoma State  
Kirk Barton JR Ohio State  
Cedric Gagne-Marcoux SR C. Fla.  
Mike Otto SR Purdue  
David Ochoa SR Kansas  
Eric Wood SO Louisville  
Dan Mozes SR West Virginia  
Nathan Bennett SR Clemson  
Doug Detish SR Ohio State  
Jeff Perrett SR Tulsa  
Jordan Grimes JR Purdue  
Doug Free SR Northern Illinois  
Max Unger SO Oregon  
Marshal Ausberry JR Virginia  
Ryan Wendell JR Fresno State  
Kevin Tuminello JR Georgia Tech  
Herbert Taylor SR TCU  
Michael Oher SO Mississippi  
Jake Kuresa SR BYU  
Yemi Babalola SO Texas A&M  
Kory Lichtensteiger JR Bowl Green  
Samson Satele SR Hawaii  
Robert Turner SR New Mexico

Jeremy Sheffey SR West Virginia  
Kurt Quartermar SR Louisville  
Dallas Reynolds SO BYU  
Theodric Watson SR South Florida  
Sean Sester JR Purdue  
Tim Duckworth SR Auburn

### TIGHT ENDS

Martin Rucker JR Missouri  
Jonny Harline SR BYU  
Matt Herian SR Nebraska  
Shawn Nelson SO Southern Miss  
Ben Barkema JR Iowa State  
Kory Sperry JR Colorado State  
Zach Miller JR Arizona State  
Eric Butler JR Mississppi State  
Craig Stevens JR California  
Martellus Bennett SO Texas A&M  
Dan Murray SR Connecticut  
Scott Chandler SR Iowa  
Chase Coffman SO Missouri

### PLACEKICKERS

Brandon Pace SR Virginia Tech  
Jad Dean SR Clemson  
Darren McCaleb SR Southern Miss  
Justin Medlock SR UCLA  
Andrew Wellock SR Eastern Mich  
Mario Danelo JR USC  
Garrett Rivas SR Michigan  
Arthur Carmody JR Louisville  
Kyle Schlicher SR Iowa  
Mike Barrow SR Idaho  
Reagan Schneider SR UTEP  
Sam Swank SO Wake Forest  
Matt Nuzie SR Connecticut  
Jeremy Ito JR Rutgers

### KICK RETURNERS

Darrell Blackman JR N.C. State  
Terrence Nunn JR Nebraska  
Steve Breaston SR Michigan  
Jessie Henderson SO SMU  
Terry Richardson SR Arizona St  
DeAndre Jackson SR Iowa State  
Antonio Lewis JR West Virginia

### DEFENSIVE LINE

Derek Landri SR Notre Dame  
Brian Smith SR Missouri  
Sedrick Ellis JR USC  
Trevor Laws SR Notre Dame  
Adam Carricker SR Nebraska  
Justin Hickman SR UCLA  
Larry McSwain SR UAB  
Frank Okam JR Texas  
Brent Curvey SR Iowa State  
Jay Alford SR Penn State  
Jordan Hill SR Arizona State  
Andre Fluellen JR Florida State  
Tommy Blake JR TCU  
Justin Harrell SR Tennessee  
Gaines Adams SR Clemson  
Victor DeGrate SR Oklahoma St.  
Justin Rogers SR SMU  
Marcus Foreman SR Baylor  
Daniel Bazuin SR Central Mich.  
Matt Robinson JR Wake Forest  
Quinn Pitcock SR Ohio State  
Jesse Nading JR Colorado State

Ramel Meekins SR Rutgers  
Tim Crowder SR Texas  
Brigham Harwell JR UCLA  
Rhema Fuller SR Connecticut

### LINEMEN

Brandon Siler JR Florida  
Dedrick Harrington SR Missouri  
Juwan Simpson SR Alabama  
OscarLua SR USC  
Xavier Adibi JR Virginia Tech  
Brian Toal JR Boston College  
Mike Alston SR Toledo  
Larry Edwards SR North Carolina  
Keyunta Dawson SR Texas Tech  
Korey Hall SR Boise State  
Sam Olajubutu SR Arkansas  
Jon Abbate JR Wake Forest  
Cameron Jensen SR BYU  
Lawrence Timmons JR Florida St.  
Vince Hall JR Virginia Tech  
Corey Smith SO Cincinnati  
Kevin McLee SR West Virginia  
Quinton Culbarsen SR Miss. State  
KaMichael Hall SR Georgia Tech  
Stephen Nicholas SR South Florida  
Keyonvis Bouie SR Florida Intl  
Nick Bunting SR Tulsa  
Rob Caldwell SR Navy  
Ameer Ismail SR Western Mich.  
Corey McKeon JR Nebraska  
Will Herring SR Auburn

### DEFENSIVE BACKS

Antoine Cason JR Arizona  
Trey Brown JR UCLA  
Tarell Brown SR Texas  
Sabby Piscitelli SR Oregon State  
C.J. Wilson SR Baylor  
Wesley Smith SR Memphis  
David Overstreet SR Missouri  
Bobby Blackshire SR Tulsa  
Zach Catanese SR Arizona State  
John Wendling SR Wyoming  
Patrick Chung SO Oregon  
Tyrell Johnson JR Arkansas State  
Josh Gattis SR Wake Forest  
Eric Weddle SR Utah  
Chris Horton JR UCLA  
Courtney Greene SO Rutgers  
Curtis Keyes SR Marshall  
Jamie Silva JR Boston College  
Joe Burnett SO Central Florida  
John Talley SR Duke  
Bobby Giannini JR Air Force

### PUNTERS

Chris Jackson SR LSU  
Adam Podlesh SR Maryland  
Justin Brantly SO Texas A&M  
Sean Douglas SR Washington  
Jeremy Kapinos SR Penn State  
Kyle Tucker JR Kansas  
Brandon Fields SR Michigan St  
John Deraney SR N.C. State  
Michael Gibson SR Memphis  
Brendan Carney SR Syracuse  
Nic Schmitt SR Virginia Tech  
Michael Hughes JR San Diego St.  
Kyle Stringer SR Boise State



**Darren  
McFADDEN**  
Heisman candidate

# SPECIAL AWARDS CANDIDATES



## ★ DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD

(Outstanding Quarterback)

Brady Quinn SR Notre Dame  
Chris Leak SR Florida  
Troy Smith SR Ohio State  
Kyle Wright JR Miami  
Chad Henne JR Michigan  
JaMarcus Russell JR LSU  
Drew Tate SR Iowa  
Brian Brohm JR Louisville  
Reggie Ball SR Georgia Tech  
Tyler Palko SR Pittsburgh  
Trent Edwards SR Stanford  
Drew Weatherford SO Florida St



**Chad HENNE**

*Heisman candidate*

## ★ HEISMAN TROPHY/ WALTER CAMP/ MAXWELL TROPHY

Brady Quinn SR Notre Dame  
Adrian Peterson JR Oklahoma  
Chris Leak SR Florida  
Marshawn Lynch JR California  
Kenneth Darby SR Alabama  
Dwayne Jarrett JR USC  
Jeff Samardzija SR Notre Dame  
Troy Smith SR Ohio State  
Kenny Irons SR Auburn  
Kyle Wright JR Miami  
Earl Bennett SO Vanderbilt  
Chad Henne JR Michigan  
Calvin Johnson JR Georgia Tech  
Tyrell Sutton SO Northwestern  
Garrett Wolfe SR Northern Illinois  
Sidney Rice SO South Carolina  
JaMarcus Russell JR LSU  
Drew Tate SR Iowa  
Yvenson Bernard JR Oregon St.  
Darren McFadden SO Arkansas  
Tyrone Moss SR Miami

## ★ OUTLAND TROPHY/ LOMBARDI AWARD

(Outstanding Lineman)

**Chris Long**

JR Virginia  
Paul Posluszny SR Penn State  
Desmond Bishop SR California  
LaMarr Woodley SR Michigan  
Patrick Willis SR Mississippi  
Sam Baker JR USC  
Lawrence Jackson JR USC  
Kevin Brown JR UCLA  
C.J. Ah You SR Oklahoma  
Ken Iweabema JR Iowa  
Justin Blalock SR Texas  
Brandon Mebane SR California  
Arron Sears SR Tennessee  
Victor Abiamiri SR Notre Dame  
Mkristo Bruce SR Washington St.  
Buster Davis SR Florida State  
Nu'u Tafisi SR California  
Quentin Moses SR Georgia  
Ryan Kalil SR USC  
Baraka Atkins SR Miami  
Clark Harris SR Rutgers  
Rufus Alexander SR Oklahoma  
Keith Rivers JR USC  
Anthony Waters SR Clemson  
Mark Fenton SR Colorado  
Brandon Siler JR Florida  
Rob Caldwell SR Navy  
Derrick Harrington SR Missouri  
Greg Olsen JR Miami  
H.B. Blades SR Pittsburgh  
Dave Harris SR Michigan  
Ameer Ismail SR Western Mich

## ■ BEDNARIK AWARD/ NAGURSKI AWARD

(Outstanding Defensive Player)

Paul Posluszny SR Penn State  
Desmond Bishop SR California  
Patrick Willis SR Mississippi  
Rufus Alexander SR Oklahoma  
Keith Rivers JR USC  
Brandon Meriweather SR Miami  
Leon Hall SR Michigan  
Darrelle Revis JR Pittsburgh  
LaRon Landry SR LSU  
Marcus Hamilton SR Virginia

## LaRon Landry SR LSU

Anthony Waters SR Clemson  
Marcus Hamilton SR Virginia  
Quentin Moses SR Georgia  
Chris Long JR Virginia  
LaMarr Woodley SR Michigan  
Michael Griffin SR Texas  
Tom Zbikowski SR Notre Dame  
Buster Davis SR Florida State  
H.B. Blades SR Pittsburgh  
Dave Harris SR Michigan  
J.D. Nelson SR Oregon  
Daymeion Hughes SR California  
Antoine Cason JR Arizona  
Trey Brown JR UCLA  
Corey McKeon JR Nebraska  
Steve Slaton SO West Virginia

## ★ DICK BUTKUS AWARD

(Outstanding Linebacker)

Paul Posluszny SR Penn State  
Desmond Bishop SR California  
Patrick Willis SR Mississippi  
Rufus Alexander SR Oklahoma  
Keith Rivers JR USC  
Anthony Waters SR Clemson  
Buster Davis SR Florida State  
H.B. Blades SR Pittsburgh  
Dave Harris SR Michigan  
Oscar Lua SR USC  
Brandon Siler JR Florida  
Juwan Simpson SR Alabama  
Derrick Harrington SR Missouri  
Brian Toal JR Boston College  
Larry Edwards SR North Carolina  
Xavier Adibi JR Virginia Tech  
Keyunta Dawson SR Texas Tech  
Mike Alston SR Toledo  
Korey Hall SR Boise State  
Sam Olajubutu SR Arkansas  
Jon Abbate JR Wake Forest  
Cameron Jensen SR BYU  
Lawrence Timmons JR Florida St.  
Vince Hall JR Virginia Tech  
Will Herring SR Auburn

## ★ THORPE AWARD

(Outstanding Defensive Back)

Brandon Meriweather SR Miami  
Leon Hall SR Michigan  
Darrelle Revis JR Pittsburgh  
LaRon Landry SR LSU  
Marcus Hamilton SR Virginia

Tom Zbikowski SR Notre Dame  
Michael Griffin SR Texas  
J.D. Nelson SR Oregon  
Daymeion Hughes SR California  
Eric Wicks SR West Virginia  
Josh Wilson SR Maryland  
Antoine Cason JR Arizona  
Trey Brown JR UCLA  
Corey McKeon JR Nebraska  
Tarell Brown SR Texas  
Sabby Piscitelli SR Oregon State  
C.J. Wilson SR Baylor  
Wesley Smith SR Memphis  
David Overstreet SR Missouri

## ★ LOU GROZA AWARD

(Outstanding Kicker)

Mason Crosby SR Colorado  
Alexis Serna JR Oregon State  
Brandon Coutu JR Georgia  
Brandon Pace SR Virginia Tech  
Jad Dean SR Clemson  
Darren McCaleb SR Southern Miss  
Justin Medlock SR UCLA  
Andrew Wellock SR Eastern Mich.  
Mario Danelo JR USC  
Garrett Rivas SR Michigan  
Arthur Carmody JR Louisville  
Kyle Schliger SR Iowa  
Mike Barrow SR Idaho  
Reagan Schneider SR UTEP  
Sam Swank SO Wake Forest

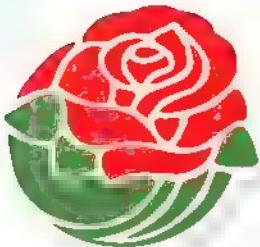
## ★ RAY GUY AWARD

(Outstanding Punter)

Daniel Sepulveda SR Baylor  
Ken DeBauche JR Wisconsin  
Jimmie Taylor JR Colorado State  
Justin Brantly SO Texas A&M  
Chris Jackson SR LSU  
Sean Douglas SR Washington  
Adam Podlesh SR Maryland  
Jeremy Kapinos SR Penn State  
Kyle Tucker JR Kansas  
Brandon Fields SR Michigan St.  
John Deraney SR N.C. State  
Michael Gibson SR Memphis

# NATIONAL OVERVIEW

By SCOTT RABALAIS



## BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

Yet another in the long line of 'tweaks' to the BCS is set to debut next January, but you're going to have to look real hard to find real change.

In January, the Bowl Championship Series will unveil its new championship bowl game.

It's a bowl, but not really a bowl.

It's a championship game, but not really a championship game

The 2006 season is either, depending on your point of view, the beginning of a brave new world or merely the continuation of the same old tired system in college football.

And yet, no matter which camp you occupy as a college football fan—whether you're in the pro-bowl camp or are a playoff protagonist—it will be played, and is sure to be a grand affair that will take its place alongside the Final Four and the Super Bowl among the year's biggest sports events.

The Tostitos Fiesta Bowl will take place Jan. 1 at Cardinals Stadium, the Arizona Cardinals' new

73,000-seat, retractable-roof facility in Glendale, just north of Phoenix.

The inaugural BCS Championship Game will be contested Jan. 8, the first of what has been called the "double-hosting" format

A college championship game in an NFL franchise's new stadium is likely to be the closest the college game gets to a playoff for the foreseeable future. The new contract between the BCS and its new television partner, FOX, calls for the network to broadcast three of the bowl games—the Fiesta, Sugar and Orange bowls—and the subsequent BCS Championship Game

Street & Smith's

## TOP 25

BY MAS SWEED

1	OHIO STATE	11	FLORIDA STATE
2	WEST VIRGINIA	12	MICHIGAN
3	TEXAS	13	LOUISVILLE
4	NOTRE DAME	14	MIAMI
5	FLORIDA	15	VIRGINIA TECH
6	CALIFORNIA	16	ARIZONA STATE
7	USC	17	NEBRASKA
8	AUBURN	18	ALABAMA
9	LSU	19	GEORGIA
10	OKLAHOMA	20	PENN STATE
		21	IOWA
		22	TEXAS TECH
		23	CLEMSON
		24	OREGON
		25	TCU

# FOOTBALL TEST

For guys serious about making money

## How did you do last year?

- Did you win the pre-season?
- Did you win September?
- Did you win most weeks?
- Did you hit 70% on your top games?
- Did you win most Monday Nights?
- Did you win most of your parlays?
- Did you win the Bowls and Playoffs?

- We Did!

And when it was all over...

- Did you make a profit?

- We Did!



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Jim Hurley's Network.  
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teamwork and brainwork."

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### I'll sweeten the deal with

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Just for making the call, I'll give you a season subscription (20 issues) to my Network Bulletin Newsletter with exclusive power ratings, picks on all college/NFL games featuring Best Bets and Upset Specials... Plus midweek update - by mail, email or online. A \$99 value!

The winning starts with the Hall of Fame Game at Canton, OH Aug. 6th Raiders vs. Eagles. And if all goes well, 60 days from now your bankbook will be thousands thicker. So don't wait. If you're serious about money, pick up the phone right now!

Jimmy Vaccaro, legendary dean of Las Vegas linesmakers, says: You swear at the guy because he beats you. Then you swear by him, because his numbers are so good."

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Written by  
Jim Hurley's Network  
366 No. Broadway  
Suite 410  
Merchandise Mkt., NY

each bowl will play host to in 2007, 2008 and 2009

The Rose Bowl recently signed its own separate TV deal to remain on ABC, which had been the exclusive home of the BCS in the previous contract.

Just how this all will work out remains to be seen, even by the people running the BCS show

"We don't know what the double-hosting format is going to be like," says SEC Commissioner Mike Slive, who begins a two-year run this year as the BCS supervisor or, as he puts it, it's his "turn in the box."

"It's going to be interesting to see, not only logically but



how the public accepts it, how the fans accept it," Slive says. "Because it is brand new."

The new format means 10 teams, not eight, will get a big slice of the highly lucrative BCS pie. Conferences will continue to be limited to two teams each, opening up more potential slots for conferences like the Mountain West, Conference USA and Mid American.

The other major component of the BCS equation—the formula for

determining the two teams that will play for the title—will remain virtually unchanged after a major overhaul going into the 2005 season.

The same could be said for college football's system for determining its mythical national champion.

There will be no 16-team playoff. No football version of a Final Four. Just two teams vying for the championship.

Meanwhile, the power brokers in college football will be crossing their collective fingers in hopes that it will

**"It's going to be interesting to see, not only logically but how the public accepts it, how the fans accept it. Because it is brand new"**

—Mike Slive, SEC commissioner and BCS supervisor

work, while fans, pundits and naysayers across the nation hope it fails to satisfy and leads to a true playoff.

But, if Slive is to be believed, don't hold your breath waiting for a new championship model.

"In the final analysis," Slive says, "this relates to the academic mission of our institutions. The bowl season is important to us. The regular season is important to us. But I'm certainly going to be open-minded as to the future."

The immediate future of the BCS is virtually a closed book. It lies in Phoenix, New Orleans, Miami and Pasadena, a four-year test to see if the latest way of determining college football's national champion is indeed the most palatable way so far.

## A HOT SUMMER IN MICHIGAN



**C**oaches are often never more than one loss away from falling out of favor with their fan base. Here are five coaches who may not want to do a Google search for [www.fire\(yournamehere\).com](http://www.fire(yournamehere).com), starting with the men who work in Ann Arbor and East Lansing:

► **Lloyd Carr, Michigan:** A dismal (by Michigan standards) 7-5 season was all the ammo the anti-Carr crowd needed to prove to the rest of world that this isn't Bo Schembechler's program anymore. A 1-4 record against Ohio State counterpart Jim Tressel is a sure way to put your job security on the endangered-species list as well. Just ask former OSU Coach John Cooper.

► **John L. Smith, Michigan State:** An 18-18 mark in three seasons isn't going to keep the Spartan faithful from looking for the next Nick Saban, unless John L. can produce some more wins pronto.

► **Larry Coker, Miami:** The storm is building in south Florida over lackluster, back-to-back 9-3 seasons, the last ending with a 40-3 implosion against LSU in the Peach Bowl. Coker did the "shake-up-the-staff" thing after returning from Atlanta. Now there's no one else to walk the plank into Biscayne Bay except the head man himself.

► **Rich Brooks, Kentucky:** With a 9-25 record at Kentucky, a 100-134-4 record in college overall—plus a 13-19 two-year stint with the St. Louis Rams—it's hard to figure out how the 65-year-old Brooks is going to get this thing turned around in the hyper-competitive SEC.

► **Bill Doba, Washington State:** After going 10-3 in 2003, Doba's Cougars have tanked the last two years, winning one less game combined than they did in his first season. One more sub-.500 season and Doba could be looking over his shoulder at former boss Mike Price riding back into the picture.





## THE TWO-MINUTE DRILL

► Tulane will have played 14 straight games away from the Louisiana Superdome before it plays its first true "home" game Sept. 30 against SMU. The Green Wave's last taste of home-cooking was Dec. 4, 2004, against Louisville. Then the team spent all of last season on the road after fleeing New Orleans in advance of Hurricane Katrina's landfall on Aug. 29. The Wave will play their first three games on the road—Houston on Sept. 9, Mississippi State Sept. 16 and LSU Sept. 23—the latter date being the first of a 10-game series that will renew a longtime rivalry on an annual basis for the first time since 1994.

► Not only did Tulane players from New Orleans experience losses from the hurricane, but elsewhere along the Gulf Coast as well. Katrina destroyed the hometown of sophomore linebacker Jordan Ellis in Pass Christian, Miss., near where Katrina's eye came ashore. Junior wide receiver Kenneth Guidroz lost his home in Port Sulphur, La., to Hurricane Rita, which hit the southwest corner of Louisiana and southeast Texas in September.

► With the insurance industry under heavy criticism for its response to Hurricane Katrina, Allstate came to the Sugar Bowl's rescue in March. The insurance giant is now the game's title sponsor, succeeding

**ZBIKOWSKI**



Nokia, which had been the "Sugar daddy" the previous 12 years. The Al.state Sugar Bowl returns to New Orleans and the Louisiana Superdome after an unprecedented move to Atlanta's Georgia Dome for last January's game.

► Notre Dame safety Tom Zbikowski was to make his pro boxing debut in June at New York's Madison Square Garden. Zbikowski, who has some 90 amateur bouts under his belt, had to receive special permission from the NCAA to keep his amateur status in football while fighting professionally.

► The Peach Bowl has been around since 1968, but while the bowl will go on, the name will not. The Peach Bowl officially becomes the Chick-fil-A Bowl this year, taking on the name of the title sponsor it's had since 1997.

► Birmingham, the self-proclaimed "Football Capital of the South," is getting back into the bowl business. The Birmingham Bowl will be played between teams from Conference USA and the Big East or Mid-American conferences at Legion Field, which was once home to the Hall-of-Fame Bowl from 1977 to 1985 before it moved to Tampa and eventually became the Outback Bowl. Other cities entering the bowl business for this season are Albuquerque (Mountain West vs. Western Athletic) and Toronto (Big East vs. MAC).

► As of May, the Houston Bowl had still not made its full payments to the Big 12 and Mountain West conferences in the wake of TCU's 27-24 win over Iowa State last year. Bowl organizers insist they are still planning to play the game in December.

## RETRO

A lot of guys with the talent possessed by these five would have been snapped up in April's NFL Draft. Instead, they came back to make their respective teams that much more formidable.

► **Adrian Peterson, RB, Oklahoma:** Yes, he's only a junior, but hasn't he been in Norman for six years now? If the Sooners are good enough to get back into the national-championship picture, it'll be because Peterson is running down the competition.



► **Brady Quinn, QB, Notre Dame:** Irish eyes will be glued to every snap taken this fall by the mighty Quinn, who may be the top QB in the country and a potential top-five NFL pick.



► **Dwayne Jarrett, WR, USC:** He's ready for his close-up, Mr. Carroll. With Bush and Leinart gone from Hollywood, this is Jarrett's season to get his name above the title and his chance to direct. If you need him, he'll be in his trailer behind the L.A. Coliseum.



► **Marshawn Lynch, RB, California:** OK, maybe Lynch isn't the "biggest" thing on the West Coast at 5-11, but his numbers from 2005 speak volumes: 1,281 rushing yards, 6.4-yard average, 10 TDs.



► **Patrick Willis, LB, Ole Miss:** This year's nominee for "The Best Player You've Never Heard Of." He led Div. I in sacks last year with nine and the SEC in tackles with 128 per game.



# 2006 Street & Smith's TOP 25



## 1 OHIO STATE (10-2 in 2005)

Texas' road to the national title started with a win at Ohio State. The reverse is true this year: Win in Austin Sept. 9 and the Buckeyes could be on their way. Troy Smith, Ted Ginn Jr. and Antonio Pittman are special talents, but the defense has to grow up quickly.

## 2 WEST VIRGINIA (11-1)

You need four things to win the national championship: talent, coaching, the right schedule and luck. The Mountaineers have the first three. With QB Pat White running Rich Rodriguez's point-a-minute offense and running back Steve Slaton around to gain the tough yards, West Virginia could be unbeaten come January.

## 3 TEXAS (13-0)

Everybody's No. 1 if Vince Young had returned, the Longhorns are hardly short-handed without him. This is still a talented team, though Bevo has zero experience at QB. Colt McCoy doesn't have to be Vince; just keep the mistakes to a minimum and let the supporting cast pile up the wins.

## 4 NOTRE DAME (9-3)

Guarded optimism about the Charlie Weis era has given way to full-blown national-title hysteria. Reasons to hyperventilate: Heisman candidate QB Brady Quinn, wideout Jeff Samardzija and running back Darius Walker. Reasons to worry: A porous pass defense must improve and Notre Dame needs to actually win a bowl to earn its first title since 1988.

## 5 FLORIDA (9-3)

Year Two was when Urban Meyer's programs took off at Bowling Green and Utah, so expectations are high in Gainesville this season. So are the misgivings, since Meyer's spread offense wasn't a smooth-running machine in 2005. Senior QB Chris Leak should know the system by now and the Gators should play for the SEC crown.

## 6 CALIFORNIA (8-4)

Finally, a Pac 10 offense to fear as much as USC's. If California gets the kind of play it did from QB Steve Levy late last season, watch out. The Bears also possess one of the nation's top rushing tandems in Marshawn Lynch and Justin Forsett. The schedule, pardon the pun, is a "Bear."

## 7 USC (12-1)

The Trojans were a fourth-down stop away from the national title last year. They're farther away without Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush, but not much. Dwayne Jarrett and Steve Smith are now the offensive stars, but who will be throwing them the ball?

## 8 AUBURN (9-3)

Remember 2004, when Auburn was 13-0 but was ranked too low to play for the BCS championship? It could happen again. The Tigers have steely ability on both sides with brothers Kenny and David Irons at running back and corner, respectively, along with QB Brandon Cox. Auburn is good, but will it get enough love in the polls?

## 9 LSU (11-2)

The Tigers have the talent—perhaps too much at QB with JaMarcus Russell, Matt Flynn and Ryan Perrilloux—worthy of a national-championship contender. The problems are restocking both lines and a rugged road schedule (Auburn, Florida, Tennessee and Arkansas). Still, with a break or two, this could be 2003 all over again.

## 10 OKLAHOMA (8-4)

For once, the Sooners open this season in the Longhorns' shadow. But Oklahoma may not be in anyone's wake for very long. The Sooners can go as far as Adrian Peterson can run, which could be all the way to the Big 12 title and the Heisman Trophy. Quarterback Rhett Bomar must improve.

## 11 FLORIDA STATE (8-5)

The 2005 campaign was an off one by Seminole standards, but winning the ACC title game over Virginia Tech and playing Penn State to a near-draw in the Orange Bowl could have been the sign of brighter days. The offense, led by QB Drew Weatherford and running back Lorenzo Booker, is potent, but the defense must improve.

## 12 MICHIGAN (7-5)

The Wolverines gave "underachieving" a new meaning in Ann Arbor last year: no Big Ten title, no win over Ohio State, no bowl victory. This year, the offense, with QB Chad Henne, running back Michael Hart and receiver Mario Manningham, should score points aplenty. The defense, however, is too shaky to win the Big Ten—or at Ohio State.

## 13 LOUISVILLE (9-3)

If the Cardinals look at West Virginia and say, "Why not us?" it's hard to argue. Running back Michael Bush said no to the NFL Draft, QB Brian Brohm is a mega-talent and wideout Mario Urrutia is ready to take over. Louisville gets two chances to make a mark with Miami and West Virginia at home.

## 14 MIAMI (9-3)

Last time out the Hurricanes were crushed 40-3 by LSU in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl. Clearly, the 'Canes didn't want to be there, but where is this program? Not a national-title contender, but not an also-ran either. Quarterback Kyle Wright returns to lead a revamped offense, and the defense will still be ultra quick.

## 15 VIRGINIA TECH (11-2)

If the Hokies can find themselves a dependable quarterback to replace Marcus Vick, they could very well find themselves back in the ACC Championship Game. The receiving corps is deep and the defense should be able to weather the loss of Jimmy

Williams and Darryl Tapp well enough to win the ACC Coastal Division.

## 16 | ARIZONA STATE (7-5)

If Dirk Koetter can decide who will be his quarterback (Rudy Carpenter or Sam Keller), this offense will take off. Zach Miller may be the nation's best tight end, while running backs Keegan Herring and Rudy Burgess provide great balance. Stopping

skilled at reloading as his former boss, Bobby Bowden, so don't be surprised if the Bulldogs are in the SEC title game again.

## 20 | PENN STATE (11-1)

All together now: "We will never doubt Joe Paterno again!" Still, repeating 2005's mega-success will be difficult, even with the return of superstar linebacker Paul Posluszny. Quarterback Anthony Morelli has



1

JIMI PITTMAN



other offenses is the key, as ASU allowed nearly 300 yards passing per game last year.

## 17 | NEBRASKA (8-4)

Maybe the Cornhuskers aren't ready for world domination again just yet, but they are the team to beat in the Big 12 North. The Zac Taylor-to-Nate Swift combo will light up opposing defenses. A Sept. 16 game at USC will be a litmus test for how far this program has come—or has to go.

## 18 | ALABAMA (10-2)

Not bad, just not quite what it was last year. Running back Kenneth Darby shoulders the load, while QB John Parker Wilson gets used to SEC defenses. Speaking of defenses, this will still be one of the SEC's best. But beating out LSU and Auburn to win the SEC West would be a major upset.

## 19 | GEORGIA (10-3)

Georgia was supposed to go to the Dawgs in 2005 ... and won the SEC. OK, so Georgia drops off this year—not in talent, but experience. Mark Richt is almost as

some big cleats to fill replacing Michael Robinson, and the road schedule (Notre Dame, Ohio State, Minnesota, Purdue and Wisconsin) is hellish.

## 21 | IOWA (7-5)

Circle Sept. 30 on the Big Ten calendar. If the Hawkeyes can upset Ohio State in Iowa City on that Saturday, it could propel them to the Rose Bowl. Drew Tate is a quicksilver talent at quarterback, and Albert Young should have no problem rushing for 1,000 yards in a 12-game season.

## 22 | TEXAS TECH (9-3)

Graham Harrell. Get used to the name. He'll be the latest Texas Tech gunslinger to throw for miles and miles every Saturday. But the Red Raiders are more than just a gaudy aerial arsenal. This year, the defense appears good enough to keep Tech in the game with anyone on its schedule.

## 23 | CLEMSON (8-4)

If you believe momentum carries over from one season to the next, Clemson

could be your pick in the ACC's Atlantic Division. The Tigers won six of their last seven in 2005, and even though veteran QB Charlie Whitehurst is gone, running back James Davis returns to pile up the tough yards.

## 24 | OREGON (10-2)

The Ducks were a surprise in 2005, especially after the loss of senior QB Kellen Clemens to a broken fibula in late October. Dennis Dixon and Brady Leaf are back behind center, as is running back Jonathan Stewart and a promising group of wide receivers. The defense needs new playmakers if Oregon is to hang in the Pac-10 race again.

## 25 | TCU (11-1)

After the Longhorns, the best team in Texas last year was ... TCU? Believe it. The Horned Frogs are building a formidable program in Fort Worth. With QB Jeff Ballard, running back Aaron Brown and a nice cross section of last year's defense returning, a BCS bowl berth isn't out of the question.

Question Time with ...

# Bobby Bowden

At 76, the legendary and unretiring Florida State coach talks family, a special friend, the BCS—and 'Wide Right.'

Even at age 76, Division I college football's winningest coach doesn't show any signs of slowing down.

Entering his 31st season at Florida State, Bobby Bowden has 359 career victories, five ahead of his good friend Joe Paterno. The two coaching legends squared off in January's Orange Bowl, which Penn State won in triple overtime—placing Paterno two wins ahead of Bowden as the leader of that category.

But that's one of the few statistics in which Bowden comes in second. Since becoming the Florida State coach in 1976, he has won two national championships (1993 and 1999), 12 out of the last 14 ACC titles and has more victories at FSU than the previous seven Seminole coaches combined. Bowden also holds the distinction as the only coach whose team finished ranked in the top five for 14 consecutive seasons (1987-2000). He has also seen 162 of his players drafted by the NFL—including four first-round picks this year. And in May, it was announced that Bowden would be among the 2006 inductees to the College Football Hall of Fame.

Bowden grew up in Birmingham and spent a semester as a freshman quarterback with the Crimson Tide. But he missed home and his high school sweetheart, so he moved back and married Ann Estock (his wife of 57 years now). The couple attended Howard College (now Samford University), where Bowden played for four years and later became head coach (1959).

After four seasons at Samford, Bowden quickly moved up the coaching ranks. He was the wide receivers coach at Florida State from 1963-65 and offensive coordinator at West Virginia from 1966-69. The Mountaineers named him head coach the next year, and Bowden spent five seasons in Morgantown before FSU hired him back.

Of course, football runs deep in the Bowden bloodlines. Tommy Bowden is beginning his eighth year as Clemson's head coach, while Terry Bowden coached at Auburn and is now a national college football analyst for ABC Sports. Jeff, the youngest son, has been with the Seminoles' coaching staff for the last 14 seasons and is currently the offensive coordinator.

As college football has evolved through the years, Bowden has stayed the same. While some coaches are extremely vocal with their players, the closest thing to cursing you'll ever hear Bowden say is "daggum," a word he uses so much in day-to-day life that he should have a trademark on it. And he says he still enjoys traveling to meet face-to-face with potential recruits as much as anything in his job, even in this technological age of recruiting via the Internet and text messaging.

Shortly before embarking on his annual booster tour around Florida, Bowden spoke with Street & Smith's Staff Writer Matt McKenzie on topics as varied as criticism of his son, Jeff; whether collegiate athletes should be compensated; and just what a summer vacation is like with the football-crazed Bowden clan.

**S&S:** Does the grind of being a college football coach ever get old for you? The recruiting, going on the booster tours, talking to the media?

**BOWDEN:** That's a good question. It hadn't yet. I'm the only thing that's getting old these days (laughs). You've got to have the desire. Right now, I've got great desire. I'd much rather be a head football coach than retire

**S&S:** How do you manage such a rigorous job in your 70s?

**BOWDEN:** Well, there's a couple things that have to happen. First, you can't lose your health. As a college football coach, you go out all over the field and have got to keep up with the players. Then you hire good coaches who know what's going on. They can keep you in tune with what's going on. You know, head coaches are kind of like figureheads. They keep everybody in line and keep morale up. And he lets the coaches he's hired do their work.

**S&S:** Last year, you were able to face off in the Orange Bowl against your old friend, Joe Paterno. With all of the heat he's received in the last few years at Penn State, were you pleased to see him rebound and have such a successful season?

**BOWDEN:** Oh, I was very happy for him. You can see why, because we're following in the same path. The last few years, I've won just eight or nine games (a season), which has made some people not happy. To see Joe do what he did makes me say, "See, it's not over yet. It can be done." But it's great to see him be successful

**S&S:** When it's all said and done, is it important for you to beat him for the NCAA's all-time record in most coaching victories?

**BOWDEN:** Well, it's more of a "nice if it happens" deal. If Joe Paterno was somebody I couldn't stand—and I don't know if I'm that way with anybody—then it would be a dog-eat-dog competition. But we're not like that. If I don't win, I hope he

does, and I'm sure he feels the same way. And to be honest, there ain't nobody behind us in the next 30 years that's going to catch us. But if I don't (get the record), I'm not going to lose sleep over it.

**S&S:** How much does the criticism of your son (Florida State Offensive Coordinator Jeff Bowden) bother you?

**BOWDEN:** It is kind of personal, because who can you trust more than your own son? That's the main thing I ask. But so much of it is unfair criticism. It's kind of natural. ... I had to fight the nepotism thing in the paper and we got off to a bad start once he got here. I think he's gained some ground after last year, but it is very tough. Other coaches that have hired their sons had to fight the same thing. Fans saying, "Who can we blame?" People always look for someone.

**S&S:** What are your thoughts on the current Bowl Championship Series system?

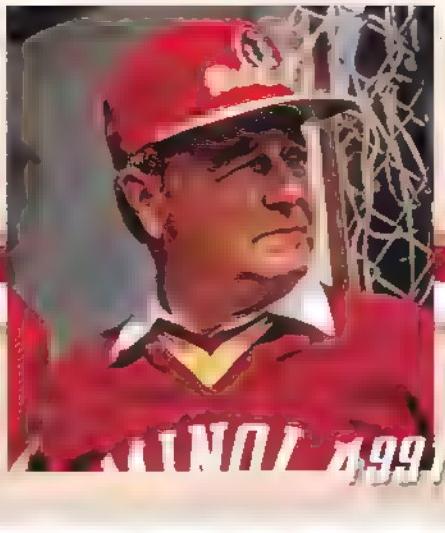
**BOWDEN:** I think it's about as good as we're going to get. They keep tampering with it every year, trying to make it better. Personally, I could live with the (Associated Press) vote. The first 40 to 45 years I was coaching, you went with the AP or coaches' vote or what used to be called the UPI vote. You could win a national championship just off that. But, as in any system, there's going to be flaws no matter what.

It's funny, the thing that concerned me the most (about the BCS) is I thought, one of these days, one division (winner in a conference) is going to be 7-4 and beat an 11-0 team (to go to a BCS bowl). Then it happened with us last year (when the 7-4 Seminoles defeated a 10-1 Virginia Tech team for the ACC championship and an Orange Bowl berth). It wasn't expected, but also none of the teams that beat us (during the regular season) made it to a BCS bowl. It worked out for us, but I would have hated to be a Virginia Tech fan.

**S&S:** Will there ever be a playoff in Division I NCAA football?

**BOWDEN:** We won't see it during my lifetime. Football is not like basketball, where you play three times a week. You can't play but once a week, and then you





have injuries. Maybe we might have a four-game playoff, but you better be careful, because then the No. 5 team would be left out. That's no good.

**S&S:** How has your young offense matured over last season?

**BOWDEN:** I hope it's matured, usually we're confident every year. It all starts with our offensive line, where we had some injuries (last season). If you can't do it up front, I don't care what kind of players you have—you're not going to be successful. The thing is with us, in the last five years, we've had to start two freshman quarterbacks (Chris Rix and current QB Drew Weatherford). We've never done that before. Charlie Ward was a redshirt sophomore. Chris Weinke was a sophomore, even though he was 26. Going back to Thad Busby, Peter Tom Williams—all of them (had experience)

**S&S:** With so much football running in the family, describe a typical Bowden family vacation.

**BOWDEN:** It takes place the last week in June and first week in July (in Panama City, Fla.). It started off with just me and Ann and six kids. Then it grew to our kids' husbands and wives. Now, it's all of us, plus 21 grandchildren. We're together and we play a lot of golf, and at the (dinner) table, there's no way we can talk without bringing up football. It always comes up. Of course, when Tommy and I talk, we both keep little favorite secrets than can't be revealed. Even the girls like to talk football. I'll bet you, when we're down there, one-third of our conversation is about football.

**S&S:** How much has having Defensive Coordinator Mickey Andrews by your side for the last 20-plus years meant to your team's success?

**BOWDEN:** It's a must to have someone like that. Most head coaches will get involved on just one side of the ball. They'll spend all the time on defense and leave the offense alone, or work with the offense rather than the defense. That's kind of what I do; I leave him alone (on defense). He's had excellent success and a great group of players to work with. Mickey's as valuable a part to the program as I am.

**S&S:** After you arrived at Florida State from West Virginia, did you ever see yourself taking another job, perhaps in the pros?

**BOWDEN:** You know, when I came here back in 1976, I came with the idea of not staying here.

I thought I'd be here three or four years, then go to either Alabama or Auburn in order to be closer to home. And I was actually offered those jobs (at different times). As for (the NFL), I've had several communications with pro clubs, and I'm sure I could have accepted one. But I would just rather work with college-age kids—I feel I can have more influence over them than a pro athlete.

**S&S:** Should college athletes be paid?

**BOWDEN:** In the last few years or so, I've been in favor of giving them some money, but not like a pro athlete. When I finished playing (at Howard College) in 1952, you were given room and board, book fees and \$15 for laundry money. Now, back then, that might be like \$100 today and it didn't cost \$15 to do your laundry.

I have recommended it to the NCAA to give these players \$75 to \$100 a month, because they're so tied up with football, they can't make any money (at a job). They need some to go on a date or get gas. Now, I'm not talking \$2,000 a month—remember, they're already getting free education and housing. But they need something.

**S&S:** This is the second straight year you'll open the season on Labor Day night against Miami. Is it fair to begin the year with one of your toughest opponents?

**BOWDEN:** Here's the way we feel about it. It's Labor Day night, a date that if you don't get that game, everybody would be slobbering at the mouth to get it. It's on national TV, and you're two of the only teams playing that night. Of course, we're thinking, "Daggum, we don't want to open with Miami," but I'm sure they feel the same way about us.

If you look at the growth of our program, you used to never see any FSU merchandise in L.A., New York or Cleveland. Now you walk around (in those cities), and people can buy our stuff there.

It (exposure) also helps us sign so many kids. Take (running back) Lorenzo Booker, who's out of California. When we were recruiting him, I asked him, "Why would you even be interested in us?" He said, "Coach, I always wanted to be a Seminole."

(Defensive back) Myron Rolle was the same way. So was (tight end) Brandon Warren, who we signed this year. Here's a big kid out of Alcoa, Tenn., and you think "there ain't no way he's getting away from (the University of Tennessee)." But he said

the same thing: "Coach, I've always wanted to be a Seminole."

That's where TV and media play a key role. You know, if we didn't grab the Labor Day night game, Florida would grab it, or USC, or Georgia would jump at the chance.

**S&S:** How often do you tire of hearing about the kicking saga at FSU? The phrases "Wide Right" and now even "Wide Left" have become pretty synonymous with the program.

**BOWDEN:** Isn't that funny? I was talking with Joe (Paterno) at a Nike convention, and he must have told me three times, "You know, y'all have played in more big games than any team in the country, and y'all are the unluckiest team." It's amazing how many games we've lost because of kicks. I don't know of any other series in the nation (besides Florida State and Miami) that's had the same scenario—missed field goal, missed field goal, missed field goal. But the tide turned a little last year.

The first one was in 1991, and it was wide right. Then the next one (in 1992), the same thing happened. Right there, you just say, "Oh my goodness." Now remember, these were short field goals, not long. They were games we could have won.

**S&S:** Is it important to you to win one more national championship before retiring?

**BOWDEN:** Well, if I won one, I don't know if I'd be ready to hang it up, but the way it is nowadays, that's a stigma we have. Like the Super Bowl—if you don't win that thing, you ain't nothing. Pittsburgh wins it and they're a hero, meanwhile you have poor Seattle. Same thing happened with Texas. All of a sudden they're a dream, and everybody forgot (about USC). If you don't have (a national title), you get no credit. But I do want to win one more before I retire. I have a good staff and good health, so hopefully I don't have to retire anytime soon. But I want to keep my fans halfway happy (laughs).

**S&S:** When will you know it's time to retire?

**BOWDEN:** I always said if I lost too many games (in a season), I just couldn't stand it. However, I've been careful not to identify that number (laughs). If I thought my team looked futile, then I know it's time to get a young guy in here. But seeing what Joe did last year, it just shows you can't give up too soon, as long as you have your health.



Predicted order of finish

## ATLANTIC

p. 21  
STOCK UPp. 23  
STOCK UPp. 25  
STOCK DOWNp. 26  
STOCK STEADYp. 27  
STOCK DOWNp. 27  
STOCK UP

## COASTAL

p. 28  
STOCK UPp. 30  
STOCK DOWNp. 32  
STOCK STEADYp. 33  
STOCK DOWNp. 34  
STOCK UPp. 34  
STOCK STEADY

## RATING THE PLAYERS

<b>Fastest receiver</b>	Jacoby Ford, Clemson
<b>Best hands</b>	Calvin Johnson, WR, Georgia Tech
<b>Best passing QB</b>	Drew Weatherford, Florida State
<b>Best running QB</b>	Reggie Ball, Georgia Tech

<b>Most elusive RB</b>	James Davis, Clemson
<b>Best instincts</b>	Vince Hall, LB, Virginia Tech
<b>Best athlete</b>	Calvin Johnson, WR, Georgia Tech
<b>Best under pressure</b>	Matt Ryan, QB, Boston College

<b>Top NFL prospect</b>	Calvin Johnson, WR, Georgia Tech
<b>Top impact freshman</b>	Myron Rolle, S, Florida State
<b>Hardest hitter</b>	Buster Davis, LB, Florida State
<b>Biggest underachiever</b>	Willie Williams, LB, Miami

## Goal of sending two teams to BCS should finally be realized this season

By MIKE HARRIS and JEFF WHITE Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch

This wasn't what the Atlantic Coast Conference had in mind when it expanded to 12 schools—a move many of the league's most prominent men's basketball coaches opposed—and created two divisions and a championship game for football.

The ACC's goal, besides gaining more exposure, money and power for the conference, was to send two teams to the Bowl Championship Series: the league champion and an at-large representative.

That seemed reasonable for a conference that includes perennial powers Miami, Florida State and Virginia Tech. But the ACC had to settle for one bid in 2005, and it didn't go to a national-title contender. The BCS spot went to a Florida State team that, after stumbling through the regular season, upset Virginia Tech in the inaugural ACC title game. The Seminoles finished 8-5 and ranked No. 23 after losing in three overtimes to Penn State in the Orange Bowl.

Last season wasn't a total loss for the ACC, which sent a league-record eight teams to bowls and had five teams in the final Associated Press poll, led by No. 7 Virginia Tech. Twelve ACC players were selected in the first

round of the NFL Draft, including the No. 1 pick, N.C. State defensive end Mario Williams. Still, the conference hopes Year Two of its 12-team era goes better.

The ACC lost many of its brightest stars from 2005, including the offensive and defensive players of the year, Wake Forest tailback Chris Barclay and Maryland linebacker D'Qwell Jackson. Moreover, 10 ACC players who had college eligibility left opted to declare for April's NFL Draft, among them Maryland tight end Vernon Davis, Virginia Tech quarterback Marcus Vick and N.C. State's Williams, all of whom probably would have been ACC Player-of-the-Year candidates in 2006. And that group doesn't include linebacker Ahmad Brooks, a former Butkus Award finalist who applied for the NFL's supplemental draft after Virginia Coach Al Groh dismissed him from the team during the offseason.

As was the case in 2005, Miami and Virginia Tech will battle for the Coastal Division title. In the Atlantic, the Bowdens figure to fight it out for the crown, with father Bobby's Florida State Seminoles trying to fend off the challenge of son Tommy's Clemson Tigers.

## 5

Can the post-expansion ACC meet its goal of sending two teams to the BCS? Coming out of the ACC Championship Game, the conference probably will need to have two one-loss teams—or better.

Can Florida State rejoin the nation's elite? The Noles return a top-shelf quarterback in Drew Weatherford, but lost six starters on offense and seven on defense.

Was Miami's '05 season an aberration, or are the 'Canes in decline? Coach Larry Coker's record may be an impressive 53-9, but back-to-back 9-3 seasons have many Hurricanes fans in a foul mood.

Can Virginia Tech survive the loss of nine NFL draft picks? Don't count the Hokies out, even after such major personnel losses. Tech's defense should again be formidable.

Can Maryland regain the swagger it showed in its first three seasons under Coach Ralph Friedgen? After three years at his alma mater, Friedgen's record was 31-8. Since then, the Terrapins are 10-12 and haven't advanced to a bowl. Unless one of Maryland's QBs makes dramatic strides, there will be no return to glory this fall.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

**FLORIDA STATE:** Safety Myron Rolle was rated by many as the nation's No. recruit.

**CLEMSON:** Second straight impressive class for Tommy Bowden and staff.

**MIAMI:** Even short-handed, 'Canes coaches landed numerous blue-chippers.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Best effort yet of the Bunting era in Chapel Hill.

**VIRGINIA TECH:** Like archival Virginia, the Hokies struggled in-state.

**MARYLAND:** Penn State dominated recruiting in the Terrapins' back yard.

**BOSTON COLLEGE:** Another solid class for one of the nation's most stable programs.

**VIRGINIA:** A weak group academically, with at least four signees likely headed to prep school.

**N.C. STATE:** More Floridians than North Carolinians in this unheralded class.

**GEORGIA TECH:** Small class that lacks the star power of some of its predecessors in Atlanta.

**WAKE FOREST:** Tailbacks Josh Adams and Lucas Caparelli turned down offers from more prominent programs to sign with Wake.

**DUKE:** Will this be the class that leads the Blue Devils out of the Coastal Division cellar? Unlikely.

## OFFENSE

QB	Drew Weatherford, So., Florida State
RB	Tyrone Moss, Sr., Miami
RB	James Davis, So., Clemson
OL	Josh Beekman, Sr., Boston College
OL	Roman Fry, Sr., Clemson
OL	Leroy Harris, Sr., N.C. State
OL	Jared Gaither, So., Maryland
OL	Steve Vallos, Sr., Wake Forest
WR	Calvin Johnson, Jr., Georgia Tech
WR	Chansi Stuckey, Sr., Clemson
TE	Greg Olsen, Jr., Miami
PK	Jad Dean, Sr., Clemson

## DEFENSE

DL	Chris Ellis, Jr., Virginia Tech
DL	Gaines Adams, Sr., Clemson
DL	Baraka Atkins, Sr., Miami
DL	Chris Long, Jr., Virginia
LB	Vince Hall, Jr., Virginia Tech
LB	Buster Davis, Sr., Florida State
LB	Anthony Waters, Sr., Clemson
DB	John Talley, Sr., Duke
DB	Brandon Merweather, Sr., Miami
DB	Marcus Hamilton, Sr., Virginia
DB	Josh Wilson, Sr., Maryland
P	Adam Podlesh, Sr., Maryland



**2005 TEAM STATS -----**

TEAM STATISTICS	FSU	GPP
SCORING	376	286
Points Per Game	28.9	22.0
FIRST DOWNS	243	226
Rushing	67	77
Passing	156	119
Penalty	20	30
RUSHING YARDAGE	1222	1409
Yards gained rushing	1583	1962
Yards lost rushing	361	553
Rushing Attempts	376	492
Average Per Rush	3.2	2.9
Average Per Game	94	108.4
TDS Rushing	20	17
PASSING YARDAGE	3674	2611
Att-Cmp-Int	526-303-19	404-239-12
Average Per Pass	7	6.5
Average Per Catch	12.1	10.9
Average Per Game	282.6	200.8
TDS Passing	21	15
<b>TOTAL OFFENSE</b>	<b>4096</b>	<b>4020</b>
Total Plays	902	896
Average Per Play	5.4	4.5
Average Per Game	376.6	309.2
KICK RETURNS, #-YDS	44-885	59-1226
PUNT RETURNS, #-YDS	54-801	21-116
NT RETURNS, #-YDS	12-142	19-200
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	20.1	20.8
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	14.8	5.5
INT RETURN AVERAGE	11.8	10.5
FUMBLES-LOST	19-8	25-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	114-1018	93-736
Average Per Game	78.3	56.5
PUNTS-YARDS	74-2859	95-3744
Average Per Punt	38.6	39.4
Net punt average	37.1	31.0
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME	28:12	31:39
3RD-DOWN CONV.	68/188	63/205
3rd-Down Pct	36%	31%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	4/11	6/17
4th-Down Pct	36%	35%
SACKS BY-YARDS	44-273	32-106
MISC YARDS	17	95
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	46	34
FIELD GOALS ATTEMPTS	17-24	16-24
PAT-ATTEMPTS	45-44	30-31
ATTENDANCE	496343	300506
Games/Avg Per Game	6/82724	5/60101
Neutral Site Games	2/75261	

SCORE SUMMARY						
Florida State	82	77	90	120	7	376
Opponents	58	89	64	65	10	286

**2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS -----****OFFENSE****PASSING**

Drew Weatherford	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	121.29	469-276-18	58.8	3208	18	246.8	
Xavier Lee	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
7	129.90	57-27-1	47.4	466	3	66.6	

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Lorenzo Booker	13	119	552	4.6	4	42.5
L. Washington	11	97	430	4.4	3	39.1
Antone Smith	9	36	188	5.2	3	20.9

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Chris Davis	13	51	666	13.1	5	51.2
Willie Reid	11	50	634	12.7	1	57.6
Lorenzo Booker	13	38	329	8.7	2	25.3

**DEFENSE**

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ass.	Total
AJ Nicholson	12	53	47	100
Buster Davis	13	38	53	91
Pat Watkins	13	44	33	77

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Brodrick Bunkley	13	9.0	45
Kameron Wimbley	11	7.5	56
Marcelo Church	12	4.5	19

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Pat Watkins	3	34	11.3	0
Kyle Hall	3	38	12.7	0
Ernie Sims	2	3	1.5	0



Willie Reid, who returned three punts for touchdowns last season, is gone. Tailback Smith and receiver Kenny O'Neal—like Smith, a member of the track team—will get a look as Reid's replacement.

Florida State will be helped by a schedule that features eight home games, though it opens with a difficult road trip to Miami.

"Although we have [only] 10 starters back, we play so many people that that's not a real big factor for us," Bowden says. "We may not have a lot of starters back, but we have a lot of experience coming back."

**NEXT BIG THING****MYRON ROLLE, freshman cornerback**

If football doesn't work out for Myron Rolle, it's a pretty sure bet he'll find success in the working world. But after some impressive early showings in spring practice, the 6-2, 218-pound defensive back shouldn't have anything to worry about.

Rolle's 64-yard interception for a touchdown was the highlight of Florida State's annual Garnet-and-Gold spring game, showing why he was ranked No. 1 overall on the majority of last year's recruiting classes.

"Well, he's raised his stock, but has he raised his stock enough to pass the guy in front of him? I don't know yet," Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden says. "But the thing he has shown us is that all we read must be true."

Rolle is an offensive coordinator's nightmare. He has the speed to keep up with receivers, along with the size (112 tackles as a high school senior) to punish ball-carriers. It's that perfect combination that resulted in 57 scholarship offers.

Off the field, his academics are equally exemplary. He had a perfect 4.0 grade-point average at the prestigious Hun School in Princeton, N.J., and scored a 1,340 on the SAT. Rolle plans to major in pre-med and wants to graduate in three years.

With a secondary that has just one starter returning this season, Rolle has a good chance to be an immediate starter, either at cornerback or as a rover. However he's needed, Rolle says he'll be ready.

"I don't want to sound cocky or anything, but I just always had confidence in my abilities to play at this level," Rolle says. "I was telling people earlier, all of the coaches that were recruiting me in high school told me I had good potential physically but that it was just the mental part that I would have to catch up with."

"That's why I have Coach (Defensive Coordinator Mickey) Andrews here to help me make this transition as easy as possible and get to that point where I can start making plays."

—Matt McKenzie

## CLEMSON



## TIGERS

CLEMSON, S.C.



## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	8
2004	6
2003	8
2002	7
2001	7

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL    ★ NATIONAL TITLE

## Tigers may be set for their loudest roar in Tommy Bowden's coaching tenure

The buzz is back at Clemson.

The Tigers closed with a rush last season, winning their final four and six of their last seven to finish the season ranked 21st. They beat three teams that were ranked in the top 20, the first time they've done that since 1989.

Clemson fans are thinking that it may be son Tommy of the Tigers and not dad Bobby of Florida State leading a team into the ACC title game.

They may be right. It's certainly not an unreasonable expectation. And it will be impressive if it happens. Clemson plays seven teams that won at least seven games last season and goes 11 weeks without a break. It hasn't played 11 consecutive weeks since 1986.

"That is a positive when you get on a roll like we did in 2000," Bowden says, referring to the season Clemson played 10 straight weeks. "But it can be a negative if you run into some injury problems."

Clemson will have to make do without veteran quarterback Charlie Whitehurst, who set 46 school records and threw for 9,665 career yards. It will have to make do without cornerback Tye Hill, a first-round NFL draft choice widely regarded as one of the best at his position.

It should be able to make do nicely.

Senior Will Proctor steps in for Whitehurst, the man he backed up for three seasons. He has little experience, playing in only 12 games and throwing just 34 passes. However, three did go for touchdowns and he has yet to be intercepted. He has taken only 99 snaps in competition.

"He sat in on all those meetings for four years and is a student of the game," Bowden says. "He had two tests last year, the fourth quarter of the Texas A&M game and the Duke game, where he started. He passed both those tests. So he has more experience than some first-year starters."

There's some interesting history at Clemson regarding seniors starting at quarterback for the first time. It happened in 1956 with Charlie Bussey, in 1979 with Billy Lott and in 1989 with Chris Morocco. Clemson went to a bowl game each of those three seasons.

Proctor will be very well protected. Clemson returns all five of its offensive linemen, a quintet that has combined for 90 career starts. Senior guard Nathan Bennett has made 25 starts and senior tackle Marion Dukes 23. Roman Fry, a guard by trade, was second-team All-ACC last season. Over the course of the year, he played center, guard and tackle. Clemson credited Fry with 18 knockdown blocks against Florida State, the most for a Tiger in four seasons.

## PRESEASON RANK

#2

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	5	4	5	5
DEFENSE	5	4	5	5
SPECIAL TEAMS	5	4	5	5
COACHING	5	4	5	5

2005 Record: ACC Atlantic

8-4      4-4

(beat Colorado in the Champs Sports Bowl, 19-10)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	VS RESULT
9/2	Florida Atlantic	
9/9	BOSTON COLLEGE	13-16 (OT)
9/16	FLORIDA STATE	35-14*
9/23	North Carolina	
9/30	Louisiana Tech	
10/7	@WAKE FOREST	27-31
10/14	Temple*	37-7
10/21	Georgia Tech	9-10
10/28	@VIRGINIA TECH	
11/4	Maryland	28-24
11/11	North Carolina State	31-10
11/25	South Carolina	13-9

The annual Bowden Bowl will probably mean a spot in the ACC title game for the winner.

\* at Charlotte, N.C.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15

Lettermen returning/lost: 47/20

## OFFENSE

QB	14	Will Proctor (6-2, 205, Sr.)
FB	41	Alex Pearson (6-2, 250, So.)
RB	1	James Davis (5-11, 210, So.)
LT	79	Barry Richardson (6-7, 335, Jr.)
LG	72	Roman Fry (6-4, 295, Sr.)
C	62	Dustin Fry (6-3, 315, Sr.)
RG	63	Nathan Bennett (6-5, 300, Sr.)
RT	75	Marion Dukes (6-4, 315, Sr.)
WR	80	Aaron Kelly (6-5, 180, So.)
WR	2	Chris Stuckey (6-0, 185, Sr.)
WR	5	Rendrick Taylor (6-1, 225, So.)

## DEFENSE

DE	94	Phillip Merling (6-5, 275, So.)
NG	44	Donnell Clark (6-3, 265, Sr.)
DT	91	Rashaad Jackson (6-3, 270, So.)
DE	93	Gaines Adams (6-5, 265, Sr.)
SLB	20	Tramaine Billie (6-1, 205, Sr.)
MLB	40	Anthony Waters (6-3, 240, Sr.)
WLB	32	Nick Watkins (6-2, 220, Jr.)
CB	12	C.J. Gaddis (6-0, 205, Jr.)
CB	3	Duane Coleman (5-10, 195, Sr.)
FS	22	Chris Clemons (6-1, 200, So.)
SS	25	Michael Hamlin (6-3, 195, So.)

## SPECIAL

PK	7	Jad Dean (5-11, 205, Sr.)
P	30	Cole Chason (6-0, 165, Sr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

Stadium: Clemson Memorial Stadium (81,473)

As for the skill slots, Clemson is as loaded as anyone. Senior receiver Chansi Stuckey caught 64 passes for 770 yards last season. He's ACC Player-of-the-Year material. Stuckey is also the Tigers' punt returner. Stuckey and Aaron Kelly each caught at least two passes in every game last season.

The tailback combination of sophomore James Davis and senior Reggie Merriweather rushed for a combined 1,594 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2005. Davis was the ACC Rookie of the Year, based on a rushing total of 879 yards and a receiving sum of 152. A wrist injury cost him two games and a 1,000-yard rushing season. Merriweather had a streak of three games with at least 100 yards.

Clemson's 384.6 yards-per-game average on offense last season was an 89-yard improvement over the previous season.

On defense, Clemson forced at least two turnovers in each of its final eight games last year. The strength of the defense is the linebacking corps, where seniors Tramaine Billie and Anthony Waters and junior Nick Watkins return. That's merely the team's top three tacklers. Waters was the leader with 109 total tackles, 12.5 of which came behind the line of scrimmage. He is the leading returning tackler in the ACC.

Also back is senior end Gaines Adams, who led Clemson with 8.5 sacks.

Waters and Adams explored going pro early before deciding to return to Clemson.

"It was a good decision for both of them because they can improve their stock for the NFL with another outstanding season," Bowden says.

Tackle Rashad Jackson was one of three Clemson defenders last season to be named to at least one Freshman All-America unit. He started only once last season, but managed 8.5 tackles for a loss. End Phillip Merling had 22 tackles, including two sacks, and will step into a more prominent role this fall. Clemson also has a terrific line prospect with one of the league's great names in redshirt freshman Etta Etta-Tawo, a promising prospect at tackle.

Jamaal Fudge is also gone in the defensive backfield, so that's where Clemson has the most work to do. He and Hill each intercepted three passes last season. Senior Sergio Gilliam returns at cornerback. Duane Coleman, who converted from

Head coach: Tommy Bowden, 8th year (52-33)

Career record: 70-37

Assistant coaches: Rob Spence (off. coord./QBs), Vic Koenning (def. coord.), David Blackwell (LBs/recruiting coord.), Ron West (OLBs), Burton Burns (RBS), Brad Scott (off. line), Dabo Swinney (WRs), Billy Napier (TEs), Chris Rumph (def. line)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- 2 | Ricky Sapp, DL, 6-5 225  
Top in-state prospect is impressive.
- 3 | James Cumbie, DE, 6-7, 255  
Illinois product likes the South.
- 4 | Kevin Alexander, LB, 6-3, 215  
Prep teammate of Spiller could play early
- 5 | Richard Jackson, PK/P, 5-11, 185  
All-America prep kicker should help.

**2005 TEAM STATS**

SCORING	316	211
Points Per Game	26.3	17.6
FIRST DOWNS	249	204
Rushing	108	79
Passing	119	111
Penalty	22	14
RUSHING YARDAGE	1836	1447
Yards gained rushing	2141	1799
Yards lost rushing	305	353
Rushing Attempts	450	431
Average Per Rush	4.1	3.4
Average Per Game	153.0	120.6
TDS Rushing	20	12
PASSING YARDAGE	2779	2352
Att. Comp/Int.	377-248-10	373-211-14
Average Per Pass	7.4	6.3
Average Per Catch	11.2	11.1
Average Per Game	231.6	196.0
TDS Passing	14	10
<b>TOTAL OFFENSE</b>	<b>4615</b>	<b>3799</b>
Total Plays	827	804
Average Per Play	5.6	4.7
Average Per Game	384.6	316.6
KICK RETURNS #-YDS	30-658	40-897
PLNT RETURNS #-YDS	30-207	25-207
NR RETURNS #-YDS	14-177	10-50
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	21.9	22.2
PLNT RETURN AVERAGE	6.9	8.4
INT RETURN AVERAGE	12.0	5.0
FUMBLES-LOST	15-5	24-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	57-486	102-787
Average Per Game	4.8	8.5
PUNTS-YARDS	1845	2857
Average Per Punt	33.5	42.0
Net punt average	29.7	39.0
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:38	29:22
3RD-DOWN CONV.	62/163	64/182
3rd-Down Pct.	38.0%	35.2%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	8/14	7/16
4th-Down Pct.	57.1%	43.0%
SACKS BY-YARDS	34-199	23-162
MISC YARDS	31	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	35	23
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	24-31	17-22
PAT ATTEMPTS	34-35	20-20
ATTENDANCE	470500	278658
Games, Avg Per Game	6/78417	5/55732
Neutral Site Games	1/31470	

**2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS****OFFENSE****PASSING**

Charlie Whitehurst

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	133.5	229-340-10	67.4	2483	11	225.7
Will Proctor						
4	166.1	18-31-0	58.1	281	3	70.3
Cullen Harper						
1	113.0	1-2-0	50.0	15	0	15.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
James Davis	11	165	879	5.3	9	79.9
R. Merrinweather	12	149	715	4.8	7	59.6
Kyle Brown	12	33	106	3.2	0	8.8

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Chansi Stuckey	12	64	770	12.0	4	64.2
Aaron Kelly	12	47	575	12.2	2	47.9
Carlis Baham	12	32	500	15.6	4	41.7

DEFENSE	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Anthony Waters	11	74	35	109
Nick Watkins	12	62	37	99
Tramaine Billie	12	50	43	93

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Gaines Adams	12	9.5	64
Charles Bennett	12	3.5	12
Phillip Merling	12	2.0	11

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
C.J. Gaddis	3	36	12.0	0
Tye Hill	3	35	11.7	0
Jamaal Fudge	3	10	3.3	0



James Davis, RB

tailback and started three games at corner in 2005, will step in at one corner, while former quarterback C.J. Gaddis will get a look at the other spot.

Sophomore safety Michael Hamlin was a starter for the final seven games last season and intercepted two passes. Sophomore Chris Clemons will man the other safety slot.

Clemson is experienced on special teams, as kicker Jad Dean and punter Cole Chason—both seniors—return for their third years as starters. Dean kicked a school-record 24 field goals last season. Chason averaged just 36.4 yards per punt.

**NEXT BIG THING****WILL PROCTOR, senior quarterback**

Forget the patience of Job. Try the patience of Proctor—as in Will Proctor, who, after four years of waiting, assumes the starting quarterback job at Clemson this fall.

The senior served as Charlie Whitehurst's understudy the past two seasons after a year at wide receiver and a redshirt campaign as a freshman. Expectations are soaring for Proctor after solid performances in two games last year.

His most memorable relief effort came in the 2005 season opener against Texas A&M, when Whitehurst, after suffering a crushing tackle, left the game woozy late in the third quarter. Proctor took over and helped Clemson drive down the field for a game-winning field goal with two seconds left. Along the way, he demonstrated remarkable poise during the fourth quarter, completing two of four passes for 28 yards and rushing three times for 18 yards in the 25-24 win.

"He had an opportunity to compete and play and win in a critical situation," says Clemson Offensive Coordinator Rob Spence. "That fourth

quarter against A&M, and his start on the road at Duke [later in the season], were big steps. He has been preparing for this role [as a starter] for a long time."

At Duke, Proctor made the first start of his college career, leading the Tigers to a 49-20 win. He threw two TD passes and ran for another score, contributing 232 yards of total offense on the day.

Proctor is confident he can turn in a productive year as a starter. He has a strong backfield, including 2005 breakout star James Davis, as well as a veteran offensive line Spence describes as the heart of the team.

"Charlie [Whitehurst] taught me a lot about how to prepare for games, how to practice well and how to watch [game] film," Proctor says. "He became a legendary quarterback at Clemson and I've got some big shoes to fill, but I think we're going to have a balanced attack and do some good things. It's an exciting opportunity."

—Erik Spanberg



# BOSTON COLLEGE

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



## Eagles to hang title hopes on one-two punch at running back

**W**hile in the Big East Conference, Boston College forged a reputation as an always-strong team that would go to a bowl every year but never quite made the transition from good to great.

Now in the ACC, it doesn't look like anything has changed. The Eagles will be very good again and are a near-lock to make their eighth straight bowl appearance. But they won't be great.

The Eagles have six starters back on each side of the ball. They lose one offensive stud in receiver Will Blackmon and one serious defensive stud in end Mathias Kiwanuka.

The offensive line has three two-year starters back. Senior left tackle James Marten, senior right guard Josh Beekman and junior right tackle Gosder Cherilus give the Eagles good reason not to worry about protection. They'll miss Pat Ross, who started 37 games at center in three years.

Boston College didn't have a 1,000-yard rusher last season, a rarity, but L.V. Whitworth and Andrew Callender combined for 1,515 yards as sophomores in 2005. Whitworth led the team with 807 yards, while Callender had a better per-carry average at 5.0 (to 4.3). Also back is sophomore A.J. Brooks, who gained 319 yards in 2004 and then took a redshirt season. Senior Mark Palmer returns for another season at fullback.

Blackmon and Larry Lester combined to catch 88 balls last season. Tony Gonzalez, who caught 28 passes for 414 yards and five touchdowns, is back. Kevin Challenger, who had 16 catches, will get more chances this season. Redshirt-freshman receivers to watch are Clarence Megwa and Rich Gunnell.

Junior Matt Ryan returns at quarterback after splitting time with Quinton Porter. He threw for 1,514 yards and eight scores last year, going 5-0 as the starter.

Ryan's magic moment came during a midseason game against Wake Forest. Boston College was down nine with 3:36 left and he threw for a pair of touchdowns in a span of 1:18 as the Eagles rallied to win. Ryan was also MVP of the MPC Computers Bowl.

"We are excited about his chances to lead this team in the fall," BC Coach Tom O'Brien says.

A player to watch is junior linebacker Brian Toal. He had 53 tackles last season, including seven behind the line. He's also the team's short-yardage back. He had 23 carries and a team-best six touchdowns in '05. He could be BC's leading tackler and scorer this season.

Toal will need some help at linebacker, as the Eagles are without Ray Henderson and Ricky Brown.



# EAGLES

Stadium: Alumni Stadium (44,500)

## PRESEASON RANK:

# #3

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★

2005 Record: 9-3 ACC Atlantic

5-3  
(beat Boise State in the MPC Computers Bowl, 27-21)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
8/31	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	
9/16	Clemson	16-13 (OT)
9/23	Brigham Young	20-3
9/30	@N.C. STATE	30-10
10/14	Maine	
10/21	Virginia Tech	10-30
10/28	@FLORIDA STATE	17-28
11/4	Buffalo	
11/11	@WAKE FOREST	35-30
11/18	Duke	
11/25	Maryland	31-16
12/2	@ MIAMI (FL)	

## \* GAME TO WATCH \*

BC may not be able to make it to the ACC title game, but it could determine who does in this one.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Redshirt returnees/lost: 37/16

## OFFENSE

QB	12 Matt Ryan (6-5, 221, Jr.)
FB	49 Mark Palmer (6-3, 245, Sr.)
TB	30 L.V. Whitworth (6-0, 220, Jr.)
LT	70 James Marten (6-8, 315, Sr.)
LG	74 Ryan Poles (6-4, 310, Jr.)
C	61 Kevin Sheridan (6-3, 296, Jr.)
RG	75 Josh Beekman (6-2, 325, Sr.)
RT	77 Gosder Cherilus (6-7, 320, Jr.)
TE	85 Ryan Thompson (6-4, 254, Jr.)
WR	84 Kevin Challenger (5-9, 177, Jr.)
WR	26 Tony Gonzalez (5-11, 190, Sr.)

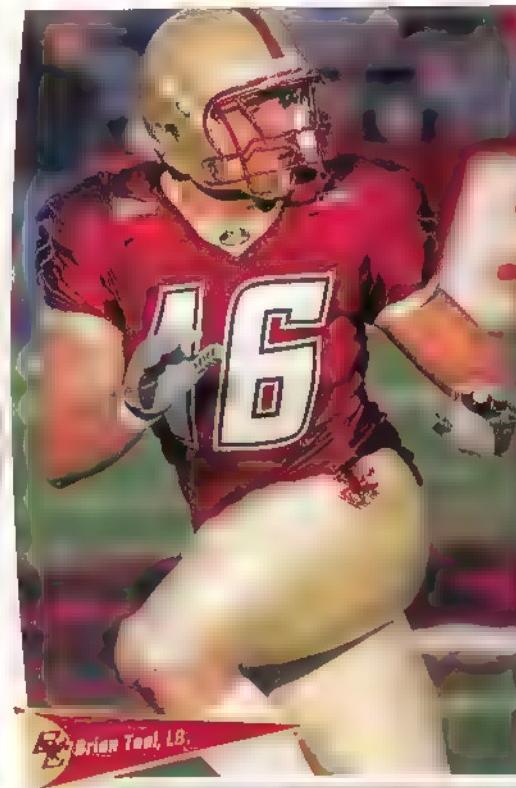
## DEFENSE

LE	86 Jim Ramella (6-4, 244, So.)
LT	60 Ron Brace (6-3, 343, So.)
RT	90 B.J. Raji (6-1, 337, Jr.)
RE	57 Nick Larkin (6-4, 252, Jr.)
LB	48 Tyronne Pruitt (5-11, 218, Jr.)
LB	40 Jolonn Dunbar (5-1, 224, Jr.)
LB	16 Brian Toal (6-1, 238, Jr.)
CB	9 Larry Anam (6-0, 192, Sr.)
CB	27 DeJuan Tribble (5-9, 189, Jr.)
SS	24 Ryan Glasper (6-0, 207, Sr.)
FS	44 Jamie Silva (5-11, 205, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	20 Ryan Ohliger (5-9, 197, Jr.)
P	46 Johnny Ayers (6-0, 186, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American



Henderson, the middle linebacker, started 37 straight games. Junior Jolonn Dunbar will move into the middle. Tyronne Pruitt, another junior, figures to be the other starter.

With Kiwanuka and Al Washington both gone on the defensive line, the Eagles have some work to do there. Junior tackle B.J. Raji and junior end Nick Larkin are back. Larkin had six sacks last season.

"They have to improve and get better," O'Brien says.

Junior free safety Jamie Silva is among BC's defensive returnees. He was the leading tackler last season with 87 stops and is one of three members of the starting secondary to return. Another is junior cornerback DeJuan Tribble, who had 57 tackles.

O'Brien has 66 victories at the school and needs only three more to become the Eagles' winningest all-time coach. He's been at BC since 1997.

**Head coach: Tom O'Brien, 10th year (66-42)**

**Career record: 66-42**

**Assistant coaches:** Jerry Peterkuski (asst. head coach/recruiting coord./special teams), Dana Bible (off. coord./QBs/WRs), Frank Spaziani (def. coord.), Don Horton (off. line), Bill McGovern (LBs), Jason Swepson (RBs), Keith Willis (def. line), Kevin Lempa (def. backs), Jim Bridge (TEs).

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- 1 Thomas Claiborne, DL, 6-3, 340.  
*Massive in-state lineman should help immediately.*
- 2 Billy Flutie, QB, 6-2, 176.  
*A can't-miss prospect at BC with this last name.*
- 3 Richard Lapham, OL, 6-8, 315.  
*As big as the New Hampshire mountains.*
- 4 James McCluskey, LB, 6-2, 240.  
*He could also play at tight end.*
- 5 Jordan McMichael, TE, 6-5, 237.  
*Minnesota product heads to Northeast.*

## MARYLAND

Terps



PRESEASON RANK:

#4

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	
DEFENSE	
SPECIAL TEAMS	
COACHING	

2005 Record: 5-6 ACC Atlantic

5-6 3-5

## 2006 SCHEDULE

S.2	William & Mary	
S.9	Middle Tennessee State	
S.14	@WEST VIRGINIA	19-31
S.23	Florida International	
O.7	@GEORGIA TECH	
<b>O.14</b>	<b>@VIRGINIA</b>	<b>45-33</b>
O.21	North Carolina State	14-20
O.28	Florida State	27-35
N.4	@CLEMSON	24-28
N.11	Miami (FL)	
N.18	@BOSTON COLLEGE	16-31
N.25	Wake Forest	22-12

## GAME TO WATCH

The Terps hammered the Cavaliers in one of their highlights from last season and may need to do it again to enhance their bowl chances.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 45/17

## OFFENSE

QB	14	Sam Hollenbach (6-5, 218, Sr.)
FB	32	Tim Cesa (6-1, 243, Jr.)
TB	44	Lance Ball (5-9, 225, Jr.)
LT	70	Stephon Heyer (6-7, 319, Sr.)
LG	69	Donnie Woods (6-3, 291, So.)
C	60	Edwin Williams (6-4, 317, So.)
RG	63	Andrew Crumney (6-5, 294, Jr.)
RT	58	Jared Gaither (6-9, 330, So.)
TE	13	Dan Gronkowski (6-6, 262, So.)
WR	11	Drew Weatherly (6-4, 210, Sr.)
WR	84	Isaiah Williams (6-3, 206, So.)

## DEFENSE

DE	40	Jeremy Navarre (6-4, 250, So.)
NT	92	Dre Moore (6-4, 298, Jr.)
DT	95	Conrad Bolston (6-3, 285, Sr.)
LEO	55	Trey Covington (6-3, 241, So.)
LB	35	Wesley Jefferson (6-1, 236, Jr.)
LB	1	Erik Henderson (6-3, 233, So.)
LB	54	David Holloway (6-2, 222, Jr.)
CB	5	Isaiah Gardner (5-11, 194, Jr.)
CB	4	Josh Wilson (5-10, 182, Sr.)
FS	3	Christian Varner (5-11, 195, Jr.)
SS	12	Marcus Wimbush (5-11, 205, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	1	Dan Ennis (5-11, 154, Sr.)
P	36	Adam Podlesh (6-0, 192, Sr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

## TERRAPINS

Stadium: Byrd Stadium (51,500)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE   ■ BOWL   ■ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Ralph Friedgen, 6th year (41-20)

Career record: 41-20

Assistant coaches: Chris Cosh (def coord./ILBs), Tim Banks (secondary), Bryan Bossard (WRs), Tom Brattan (off line), John Donovan (RBs), Ray Rychleski (special teams coord./TEs), Al Seamons (OLBs/special teams asst.), Dave Sollazzo (def line/recruiting coord.)

games last season, the most in the league. Jackson was the ACC's Defensive Player of the Year, leading the conference with 137 tackles despite missing one game.

Four starters are back on the offensive line, which should help the eventual winner of the quarterback derby. Among them is sophomore tackle Jared Gaither, who started the final eight games as a true freshman and didn't allow a sack. Senior tackle Stephon Heyer returns after sitting out last season with a knee injury. His eventual replacement will have huge shoes to fill, literally. Heyer wears a size 22.

Drew Weatherly caught 10 passes last season. That was enough to make him Maryland's leading returning receiver among the wideouts. Dan Gronkowski will get the chance to try and replace Davis at tight end, but the Terp coaches are excited about recruit Drew Gloster there.

Junior Lance Ball showed some promise late last season at tailback. He started four times, was third in the league with 903 rushing yards and had four 100 yard games in his final seven outings. Josh Allen, who has 1,941 career yards, is back after missing last season with a knee injury.

"In Lance, we have a known commodity, but I would like for him to get faster and continue to improve," Friedgen says. "It'll be great to see Josh back out there because we missed having that true breakaway threat."

Seven starters are back on defense. But none were among the top three tacklers last season. Safety Milton Harris and linebacker William Kershaw, Nos. 2-3 behind Jackson, are also gone. Senior tackle Conrad Bolston, who led Maryland with five sacks, does return. He's one of four returning starters on the line. Safety Christian Varner, who led Maryland with three interceptions last season, is also back.

Trey Covington is back for his sophomore season at linebacker. He had three sacks among his 24 tackles last year. Wesley Jefferson will replace Jackson. Three of the last five winners of the ACC Defensive Player of the Year occupied Jefferson's spot. E.J. Henderson played there before Jackson.

Maryland does have one of the best punters in the country. Adam Podlesh, a senior who has a 43.2 average for 160 career punts. Kicker Dan Ennis made his first 11 field goals and missed eight of his next 14 in 2005. He also missed four extra points.

## ACC ATLANTIC

## Terps need a quarterback to establish himself, and find some new playmakers on defense

During his long tenure as an assistant, Maryland Coach Ralph Friedgen earned a reputation as a master of developing quarterbacks. So it seems a little strange that one thing holding back the Terrapins is the fact that they haven't had a quarterback emerge the past two seasons.

Sam Hollenbach, a senior, looked the part for much of last year. He has the goods. He threw for 2,539 yards in 2005, but was also intercepted 15 times. During spring practice, he was pressed by sophomore Jordan Steffy, and Friedgen indicated that battle wasn't over. Steffy was a promising recruit who played as a true freshman in 2004 and then took a redshirt season.

Josh Portis has transferred in from Florida, but won't be able to help the Terrapins until 2007.

Maryland, coming off back-to-back 5-6 seasons, lost two big-time players in tight end Vernon Davis and linebacker D'Qwell Jackson, who were the sixth and 34th overall selections, respectively, in the NFL Draft. Davis had four 100-yard receiving

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** Melvin Alaeze, DE, 6-2, 280  
Prep school star could be four-year starter.

**2** Jeremy Ricker, QB, 6-2, 201  
Pennsylvania product has potential.

**3** Bruce Campbell, OL, 6-7, 285  
Touted blocker from Connecticut.

**4** Chris Clinton, LB, 6-3, 240  
Year at prep school helped his stock.

**5** Drew Gloster, TE/WR, 6-3, 225  
Good-sized hybrid receiver might contribute early.

# N.C. STATE WOLFPACK

**2005 Record:** 7-5 overall, 3-5 ACC  
(beat South Florida in the Meineke Car Care Bowl, 14-0)



N.C. State got off to an awful start last season, then rallied to win five of its final six and earn a spot in the Meineke Car Care Bowl. But it was a season where much more was expected from a team with a stellar defense.

How stellar? Three of those Wolfpack defenders went in the first round of the NFL Draft. One of them, defensive end Mario Williams, was the first overall pick. Wolfpack fans felt a bowl bid should have been locked up much earlier.

This year, the expectations won't be as high since the team's top three receivers and four of the five top tacklers are gone.

Last year might have gone better had Coach Chuck Amato made the switch to quarterback Marcus Stone earlier. Now a junior, Stone started six games and won five of them, including at Florida State.

Sophomore tailback Andre Brown is another player who gives N.C. State hope. He gained 667 yards on 129 carries last season and scored six touchdowns. Toney Baker, who gained 546 yards and rushed for five scores, is also back.

Senior center Leroy Harris, who has 33 career starts, is the best of the offensive linemen.

With Williams and fellow end Manny Lawson among the missing on defense, NCSU has some serious work to do. Williams, Lawson and linebacker Stephen Tulloch combined for 64.5 tackles for loss and 31 sacks last season.

Senior tackle Tank Tyler and junior tackle DeMario Pressley do return. They combined for 11.5 tackles for loss last season, but were helped considerably by the presence of Williams and Lawson. Let's see how they do when they're the focal point of a blocking scheme.

The secondary is almost intact, with rover Garland Heath, free safety Miguel Scott and cornerback A.J. Davis returning. Heath had 64 tackles last season, the most of any returnee, and led the team with five interceptions.

## PRESEASON RANK:

**#5**

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND

	▲ CONFERENCE TITLE	▲ BOWL
2005	▲ 7	
2004	5	
2003	▲ 8	
2002		▲ 11
2001	▲ 7	

\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Chuck Amato, 7th year (46-28)

**Career record:** 46-28

**Stadium:** Carter-Finley Stadium

**Capacity:** 56,800

**Official athletic Web site:** [www.gopack.com](http://www.gopack.com)

### 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
9/2	Appalachian State	
9/9	Akron	
9/16	@SOUTHERN MISS	21-17
9/23	Eastern Carolina	30-10
<b>9/30</b>	<b>FLORIDA STATE</b>	<b>13</b>
10/14	Wake Forest	19-27
10/21	@MARYLAND	20-14
10/28	@VIRGINIA	
11/4	Georgia Tech	17-14
11/11	@CLEMSON	10-31
11/18	@NORTH CAROLINA	24-31
11/25	East Carolina	

### GAME TO WATCH

N.C. State plays five of its first six at home and a repeat victory over the Seminoles, while unlikely, could provide a huge boost two weeks before the road games begin.

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13

Lettermen returning/lost: 45/19

### OFFENSE

QB	9	Marcus Stone (6-4, 236, r.Jr.)
HB	24	Andre Brown (6-0, 232, So.)
FB	89	Octavius Darby (6-2, 256, r.So.)
LT	78	James Newby (6-5, 295, r.Sr.)
LG	69	Kalani Heppé (6-3, 300, r.Ir.)
C	64	Leroy Harris (6-3, 300, r.Sr.)
RG	76	Curtis Crouch (6-5, 344, So.)
RT	79	Jon Holt (6-6, 296, r.Sr.)
TE	83	Anthony Hill (6-6, 277, Jr.)
WR	1	John Dunlap (6-2, 210, Jr.)
WR	13	LaMart Barrett (6-1, 190, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	97	Willie Young (6-5, 230, r.Fr.)
LT	92	DeMario Pressley (6-4, 293, Jr.)
RT	72	Tank Tyler (6-2, 305, Sr.)
RE	98	Littleton Wright (6-6, 244, r.Jr.)
SLB	29	LeRue Rumph (6-2, 225, r.Jr.)
MLB	42	Pat Lowery (6-1, 242, r.Sr.)
WLB	20	Reggie Davis (6-0, 246, Sr.)
LCB	3	A.J. Davis (5-10, 191, r.Sr.)
RCB	8	Jimmie Sutton (5-11, 181, r.Jr.)
FS	25	Miguel Scott (6-0, 203, Jr.)
ROV	15	Garrison Heath (6-2, 225, Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	12	John Deraney (6-4, 224, r.Sr.)
P	12	John Deraney (6-4, 224, r.Sr.)

# WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS

**2005 Record:** 4-7 overall, 3-5 ACC



## PRESEASON RANK:

**#6**

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND

	▲ CONFERENCE TITLE	▲ BOWL
2005	4	
2004	4	
2003	5	
2002		▲ 7
2001		6

\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Jim Grobe, 6th year (26-32)

**Career record:** 59-65-1

**Stadium:** Groves Stadium

**Capacity:** 31,500

**Official athletic Web site:** [www.wakeforestsports.com](http://www.wakeforestsports.com)

### 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	STADIUM	TIME	STATUS
9/9	Duke		44-6	
9/16	@CONNECTICUT			
9/23	@MISSISSIPPI			
9/30	Liberty			
10/7	Clemson		31-27	
10/14	@N.C. STATE		27-19	
10/21	@NORTH CAROLINA			
10/28	Boston College		30-35	
11/4	@FLORIDA STATE		24-41	
11/11	Virginia Tech			
11/18	@MARYLAND		12-22	

### \* GAME TO WATCH \*

If the Deacons can win their opener, a 4-1 record heading into their Oct. 7 date with Clemson won't be out of the question.

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19

Lettermen returning/lost: 48/10

### OFFENSE

QB	8	Benjamin Mauk (6-1, 200, r.Jr.)
FB	49	Damon McWhite (6-1, 255, r.Ir.)
TB	3	Micah Andrews (5-10, 215, r.Ir.)
LT	61	Arby Jones (6-2, 285, r.Sr.)
LG	79	Matthew Brim (6-4, 295, r.Jr.)
C	74	Steve Justice (6-4, 280, r.Jr.)
RG	70	Chris DeCaire (6-4, 360, So.)
RT	75	Steve Vallos (6-3, 290, r.Sr.)
TE	89	John Tereshinski (6-3, 240, r.Jr.)
WR	83	Nate Morton (6-3, 215, r.Sr.)
WR	14	Kevin Manion (5-10, 160, r.So.)

### DEFENSE

DE	93	Anthony Davis (6-5, 240, r.So.)
NG	90	Jami Smith (6-2, 294, r.Sr.)
DT	55	Jyles Tucker (6-3, 268, Sr.)
DE	48	Bryan Andrews (6-5, 265, r.Sr.)
SLB	59	Aaron Curry (6-3, 240, r.So.)
MLB	40	Jon Abbate (5-11, 245, r.Jr.)
WLB	51	Pierre Easley (6-0, 250, r.Sr.)
CB	7	Riley Swanson (5-11, 188, r.Sr.)
CB	11	Alphonso Smith (5-9, 188, r.So.)
FS	22	Josh Gattis (6-1, 212, r.Sr.)
SS	30	Patrick Ghee (6-1, 211, r.Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	38	Sam Swank (6-2, 206, r.So.)
P	38	Sam Swank (6-2, 206, r.So.)

Street & Smith's All-American



CORAL GABLES

## MIAMI



ACC COASTAL



## HURRICANES

Stadium: Orange Bowl (72,319)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



## ■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ★ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Larry Coker, 6th year (53-9)

Career record: 53-9

Assistant coaches: Rich Olson (off. coord.), Todd Berry (QBs), Marquis Mosely (WRs), Mario Cristobal (off. line), Joe Pannunzio (TEs/special teams), Randy Shannon (def. coord./LBs), John Paiero (def. line), Clint Hurt (asst. def. line), Tim Walton (def. backs)

## PRESEASON RANK.

# 1

## POWER RATINGS

## OFFENSE



## DEFENSE



## SPECIAL TEAMS



## COACHING



2005 Record:

9-3

ACC Coastal:

6-2

(lost to LSU in the Peach Bowl, 40-3)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	DS RESULT
9/3	Florida State	7-10
5/9	Florida A&M	
5/16	@ LOUISVILLE	
5/30	Houston	
6/7	North Carolina	34-16
6/14	Florida International	
6/21	@ DUKE	52-7
6/28	@ GEORGIA TECH	10-14
7/4	VIRGINIA TECH	27-7
7/11	@ MARYLAND	
7/18	@ VIRGINIA	25-17
7/23	Boston College	

## GAME TO WATCH

This may well decide which team wins the Coastal and advances to the ACC title game.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13

Lettermen returning/lost: 57/22

QB	3	Kyle Wright (6-4, 220, Jr.)
FB	41	Jerrell Mabry (6-1, 259, r-Fr.)
TB	30	Tyrone Moss (5-9, 220, Sr.)
LT	77	Reggie Youngblood (6-5, 280, So.)
LG	70	A.J. Trump (6-3, 297, r-Fr.)
C	78	Anthony Wollschlager (6-4, 281, Sr.)
RG	71	Derrick Morse (6-4, 295, Jr.)
RT	67	Tyrone Byrd (6-5, 280, So.)
TE	82	Greg Olsen (6-5, 252, Jr.)
SE	85	Ryan Moore (6-3, 215, Sr.)
FL	8	Darnell Jenkins (5-10, 181, Sr.)

DEFENSIVE		
LE	98	Baraka Atkins (6-4, 264, Sr.)
CT	99	Kareem Brown (6-4, 307, Sr.)
RT	54	Teraz McCray (6-1, 278, Jr.)
RE	95	Bryan Pata (6-4, 272, Sr.)
SLB	52	Tavares Gooden (6-2, 220, Jr.)
MLB	55	Glenn Cook (6-0, 212, Jr.)
WLB	2	Jon Beason (6-0, 225, Jr.)
LCB	4	Glenn Sharpe (6-0, 187, Jr.)
RCB	6	Randy Phillips (6-0, 185, So.)
FS	19	Brandon Menweather (6-0, 188, Sr.)
SS	1	Kenny Phillips (6-2, 200, So.)

SPECIALISTS		
PK	13	Jon Peattie (6-2, 206, Sr.)
P	15	Brian Monroe (6-2, 208, Sr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

## RATING THE RECRUITS

1. LeSean McCoy, RB, 5-11, 204  
Can Pennsylvanian rebound from injury?2. Chaz Washington, DL, 6-4, 305  
Massive down lineman looks the part.3. Sam Shields, WR, 6-0, 177  
Typical athletic receiver from the Sunshine State

4. Richard Gordon, TE, 6-4, 265

Fast and multi-skilled, he should play some right away.

Wright completed 180 of 307 passes for 2,403 yards and 18 touchdowns, with 10 interceptions. Among ACC quarterbacks, only Florida State's Drew Weatherford threw as many TD passes. If Wright can cut down on his interceptions, he could wind up on the All-ACC Team this season. He'll benefit, of course, from having so many talented targets from which to choose.

The list starts with Olsen and Moore. Olsen, whose older brother, Christian, enters the season as Virginia's starting quarterback, had 31 catches

for 451 yards in 2005, while Moore had 28 for 464. Each caught four TD passes. Other weapons in Miami's passing game include receivers Lance Leggett, who's coming off a disappointing season but impressed during spring drills, and senior Darnell Jenkins, who's likely to replace Hester as the team's return specialist.

Jenkins caught 25 passes for 242 yards and two TDs last year. He averaged 21.9 yards on eight kickoff returns and 8.0 yards on eight punt returns. Leggett, a 6-3 junior, is up to about 185 pounds—15 more than his playing weight in 2005—and appears poised for a breakout season.

"I said in the beginning of spring that he was starting to look a lot better, and he's really showing it," Wright told reporters in April.

Expected to take over for Winston at the all important left-tackle spot is 6-5, 280-pound Reggie Youngblood, who played in eight games as a true freshman last year. "I think he soaked up a lot," Coker says. "I think he's going to be a great player."

Defensive Coordinator Randy Shannon has several players who fit that description, including senior safety Brandon Meriweather, a Thorpe Award candidate who was a second-team All-ACC pick last year. The 6-0, 188-pounder led the 'Canes in tackles and broke up seven passes.

The other safety, sophomore Kenny Phillips, was a Freshman All-American who finished third on the team in tackles. Phillips started in place of Anthony Reddick, who suffered a season-ending knee injury in the opener. Reddick is back to bolster a unit that ranked fourth nationally in scoring defense (14.2 ppg) and dominated the offense during spring practice.

"It's really, really difficult to run the football on our team," Coker says. "I definitely expect our defense to be as good as last year, and I expect it to be better."

The leader of the line is senior Baraka Atkins, who has started 34 games at tackle and end. Also back at end is senior Bryan Pata, who owns 16 career starts. Atkins (6-4, 264 pounds) is likely to see most of his time at end, but in some situations "he'll play inside, depending on what we need," Coker says. "He really can help us in either position."

Candidates to start at tackle include senior Kareem Brown (6-4, 307) and junior Teraz McCray (6-1, 278), who missed the first half of last season while recovering from a torn ACL.

Miami's marquee linebacker figures to be junior Jon Beason, who made 66 tackles in '05. Classmate Romeo Davis is also back, and the Hurricanes are deep at this position. Still another junior, Tavares Gooden, started nine games at linebacker in 2004, but took a medical redshirt last year. Also pressing for playing time at linebacker is junior James Bryant, who was a backup fullback and special-teams standout in 2005. Sophomore Willie Williams, the nation's most highly recruited linebacker two years ago, is still trying to show what all the hype was about.

The Hurricanes have long been renowned for their elusive return men, and that shouldn't change this year. The team's kicking game looks promising as well. Punter Brian Monroe is a four-year starter, and he's steadily improved during his career. He also kicks off for the 'Canes and had 22 touchbacks last year.

Placekicker Jon Peattie is the nation's top returning scorer with 272 career points. In all, Peattie has made 52 of 72 field-goal attempts (72 percent) as a Hurricane. On Miami's all-time scoring list, he's fifth. Peattie will be trying to rebound, however, from an uneven junior campaign in which he missed five extra points. On field goals, he was 15-for-20, with a long of 49 yards—a noticeable improvement from his sophomore season, when he made only 15 of 24 tries.

## 2005 TEAM STATS

SCORING	325	171
Points Per Game	27.1	14.2
FIRST DOWNS	217	194
Rushing	83	92
Passing	114	76
Penalty	20	26
RLSHNG YARDAGE	1651	1415
Yards gained rushing	2060	1872
Yards lost rushing	409	457
Rushing Attempts	448	474
Average Per Rush	3.7	3.0
Average Per Game	137.6	117.9
TDs Rushing	18	11
PASSING YARDAGE	2586	1826
Att-Cmp-Int	340-195-12	354-165-14
Average Per Pass	7.6	5.2
Average Per Catch	13.3	11.1
Average Per Game	215.5	152.2
TDs Passing	20	8
TOTAL OFFENSE	4237	3241
Total Plays	788	828
Average Per Play	5.4	3.9
Average Per Game	353.1	270.1
KICK RETURNS, #-YDS	24-433	40-714
PUNT RETURNS, #-YDS	37-407	29-150
INT RETURNS, #-YDS	14-227	12-59
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	18.0	17.9
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.0	5.2
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.2	4.9
FUMBLES-LOST	19-11	30-14
PENALTIES-YARDS	88-841	83-626
Average Per Game	70.1	52.2
PUNTS-YARDS	66-2572	83-3231
Average Per Punt	39.0	38.9
Net punt average	36.7	34.0
TIME OF POSSESS/GAME	28:28	31:32
3RD-DOWN CONV	51/159	60/201
3rd-Down Pct	32%	30%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	5/13	13/23
4th Down Pct	38%	57%
SACKS BY YARDS	33-246	36-246
MISC YARDS	75	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	41	19
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	15-20	12-21
PAT-ATTEMPTS	34-39	19-19
ATTENDANCE	271862	278697
Games/Avg Per Game	6/45310	5/55739
Neutral Site Games		1/65620

	GP	ATL	NET	AVG	TD	Total
Miami	80	110	77	42	16	325
Opponent	37	56	28	40	10	171

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

### OFFENSE

#### PASSING

Kyle Wright

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	137.22	307-180-10	58.6	2403	18	200.2

Kirby Freeman

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
9	106.36	31-15-2	48.4	163	2	20.3

#### RUSHING

GP Att. Net Avg. TD Avg/G

Tyrone Moss	8	137	701	5.1	12	87.6
Charlie Jones	11	123	507	4.1	5	46.1
Derrick Thomas	10	47	150	3.2	0	15.0

#### RECEIVING

GP Att. Net Avg. TD Avg/G

Sinorice Moss	12	37	614	16.6	6	51.2
Greg Olsen	12	31	451	14.5	4	37.6
Quadrone Hill	12	29	252	8.7	1	21.0

#### DEFENSE

TACKLES

GP	Att.	SAE	Ast.	Total
Roger McIntosh	12	50	39	89
Brandon Meriweather	12	57	31	88
Kenny Phillips	12	40	27	67

#### SACKS

GP No. Yds.

Javon Nanton	12	6.5	52
Roger McIntosh	12	5.5	45
Oren Harris	12	3.5	15

#### INTERCEPTIONS

No. Yds. Avg. TD

Lovon Ponder	3	44	14.7	0
Kelly Jennings	3	36	12.0	0
Brandon Meriweather	3	27	9.0	0

## NEXT BIG THING

### RICHARD GORDON, freshman tight end

It didn't take long for freshman Richard Gordon to make an impression on Miami Hurricanes Coach Larry Coker, who has all but penciled in the 6-4, 265-pound freshman for the team's Labor Day opener against Florida State.

"He'll definitely play right away," Coker says of his newest offensive weapon. "There are a lot of things about him that make me think he can help us this fall. He runs a 4.4 40 at 265 pounds. He has great hands [and] he's tough."

Gordon will likely play a combination of tight end and H-back for the Hurricanes. He has impressed the Miami coaching staff with his size and strength; he can bench-press 335 pounds and squat 475.

Gordon, who enrolled early at Miami in January, played his senior prep season at Milford (N.Y.) Academy, which primarily

played against college junior varsity teams. With the Falcons, Gordon was used everywhere on the field—at receiver, tight end, defensive end and even special teams, where he had two kickoff returns (89 and 99 yards) for touchdowns.

Coker plans to utilize Gordon as both a blocker for Miami's running game and in the open field. If he catches on to the playbook quickly, opposing defenses should be wary.

A two-tight-end set with junior Greg Olsen, the team's leading returning receiver with 451 yards in receptions last year, would give quarterback Kyle Wright multiple weapons. Of course, Miami has historically been a hotbed for star tight ends (most recently Jeremy Shockey and Kellen Winslow Jr.).

Gordon just may be next in line.

Matt McKenzie



BLACKSBURG

# VIRGINIA TECH



## Still looking for a successor to Vick under center, Hokies will rely on a potentially dominating defense

**O**ne thing is for certain with the Hokies: They will go to a bowl game for the 14th straight season. The combination of a strong defense and a soft non-league schedule make that a safe bet.

One thing not for certain with the Hokies: They will be highly ranked again when the season ends, as they have been the past two years. Way too many holes on offense make that less than a safe bet.

The defense will be as good as it has been in years. The only place where Tech can't be totally confident is at outside linebacker, where senior Brenden Hill and junior Corey Gordon don't have a lot of experience. Hill will be quite the success story if he does well. He's bounced around to several different positions without much success, but seems to have found a spot that fits his skills well.

At the other 10 spots, the Hokies know what they have and they know it is very good.

Juniors Vince Hall and Xavier Adibi make up one of the nation's best combinations at inside linebacker. Hall was Tech's leading tackler last season by a wide margin. Tech's primary mission going into the season will be to find some backups it can count on in case one of those two get hurt. The drop-off to the second team is considerable at linebacker, more so than any other spot on the defense. But sophomore Purnell Sturdivant has a chance to be very good, and the coaches are also expected to take a very long look at incoming freshman Matt Wright.

On the line, Tech will comfortably go two deep. Ends Noland Burchette and Chris Ellis and tackles Barry Booker and Carlton Powell will be spelled frequently by ends Orion Martin and William Wall and tackles Kory Robertson and Cordarrow Thompson. The drop-off will be barely noticeable. Burchette has been bothered by a variety of injuries the past year and suffered a broken arm in spring practice. He's expected to be healthy for the fall.

Senior rover Aaron Rouse has All-America potential. He switched from outside linebacker last season and showed he could still provide run support while handling deeper pass coverage. He thought briefly about turning pro before deciding to return for a senior season, a wise move that will pay off if he continues to develop as he has his first three seasons.

Junior D.J. Parker (Wright's older brother) returns at free safety, where he split time with Justin Hamilton last season. Some combination

### RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** Jason Adjepong, DE, 6-3, 248  
Jersey product stingy on the edge.

**2** Aaron Brown, OT, 6-6, 290  
One of the top prospects in the Cincinnati area.

**3** Ladi Ajiboye, DT, 6-2, 290  
One of several touted D-Line recruits.

**4** Mike Gee, DE, 6-1, 228  
Another touted Jersey defender.

**5** John Graves, DE, 6-3, 249  
All-state Virginia player who should help soon.

Official athletic Web site: www.hokiesports.com

# HOKIES

Stadium: Lane Stadium (65,115)

### 3-YEAR WINS TREND



### ■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ■ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Frank Beamer, 20th year (146-79-2)

Career record: 188-102-4

Assistant coaches: Assistant coaches: Billy Hite (assoc. head coach/RBs), Bryan Stynespring (off. coord./TEs), Bud Foster (def. coord./ILBs), Curt Newsome (off. line), Kevin Sherman (WRs), Jim Cavanaugh (recruiting coord./SS/OLBs), Mike O'Cain (QBs), Torrian Gray (def. backs), Charley Wiles (def. line)

of junior Roland Minor and sophomores Brandon Flowers and Victor Harris will work the corners. Tech will use all three in a nickel package, removing the outside linebacker when it does so.

Things are much more unsettled on the other side of the ball.

The Hokies came out of spring practice without a clear winner in the battle to replace the dismissed Marcus Vick at quarterback. Sophomore Sean Glennon goes into preseason camp as the leader though redshirt freshman Ike Whitaker may have the most potential.

Quarterback is an area of great concern. It is something Tech wanted to have settled after spring practice, but none of the candidates left the coaching staff confident enough to make the call. Glennon is seen as very steady, perhaps without as big an upside as Whitaker or Cory Holt, but without the downside, too.

Whitaker was suspended for the first half of spring practice after being arrested for misdemeanor alcohol charges shortly before spring drills began. It says something—either about him or the other candidates—that he was able to get into the mix quickly upon his return, despite taking part in only half of spring practice.

Sophomore tailback Branden Ore was not enrolled this spring while rehabbing a surgically repaired shoulder. If he stays healthy and overcomes some academic struggles, he'll likely gain 1,000 yards. Redshirt sophomore George Bell was listed as the team's top tailback in spring ball. The Hokies also got good news when it was determined that redshirt freshman Elan Lewis doesn't need season-ending knee surgery. He injured the knee late in spring practice, but is expected to be ready for the fall. Kenny Lewis, a 2003 signee who played three years of minor league baseball, enrolled in January and will provide some options in the backfield and in the return game. His father is a former Tech standout who held the school's single-game rushing record for 25 years.

John Kinzer, the only tight end with experience, may not play again because of recurring problems with stingers in his neck. An interesting thing to watch as preseason progresses is the development of converted quarterback Greg Boone. A 6-4, 270-pound redshirt freshman, Boone fell behind in the quarterback race because of a knee injury and tonsillitis. But he's a versatile-enough athlete that the coaches see him as a contributor in 2006 at the



VTECHMORGAN.COM

H-back slot. He can run, catch, block and even throw every now and then out of that spot.

The offensive line is solid at tackle with senior Brandon Frye and junior Duane Brown, but the unit has to replace three players who made either first- or second-team All-ACC last season. Senior center Danny McGrath did well when he played last year, though a shoulder injury forced him to sit out much of the spring. Sergio Render, a true-freshman guard who enrolled in January, is expected to become a starter.

The one place on offense where Tech has no worries is receiver. Senior David Clowney led the Hokies in catches last season, while junior

Eddie Royal led them the year before. The best of a five-deep receiving corps is probably junior Josh Morgan. Juniors Josh Hyman and Justin Harper round out the pass-catching corps.

All are capable of making plenty of receptions—assuming Tech finds someone to get them the ball.

Tech's specialists—senior kicker Brandon Pace and senior punter Nic Schmitt—are solid. Pace was 19-for-22 last season on field goals and Schmitt averaged 43.2 yards per punt.



## NEXT BIG THING

### MACHO HARRIS, sophomore cornerback

Virginia Tech coaches have a new motto: "Bring on the Macho man."

Just who is the Macho man? He is sophomore Victor "Macho" Harris, a gifted young player who may never leave the field this season. During spring practice, Harris dazzled coaches and teammates with a stint at tailback and then moved over to defensive back, where he gave the Hokies hope of finding a suitable replacement for departed star corner Jimmy Williams.

And, oh, by the way, Harris also figures prominently into Coach Frank Beamer's beloved special teams. He will probably be a kick and punt returner and perhaps take on additional duties.

"Macho needs to be a corner for us and then we need to see what else we can do with him," Beamer says. "He's a special talent. We may try to play him both ways next year. We're looking at several possibilities."

Bouncing between offensive and defensive backfields is nothing new for Harris, who concentrated solely on defense as a Virginia Tech

freshman. In high school, he was the *Richmond Times-Dispatch's* prep Player of the Year after rushing for nearly 2,400 yards his senior season. Harris also earned all-state honors as a defensive back.

The cornerback role is crucial for Virginia Tech, says TBS college football analyst Charles Davis.

"If he plays well, that would really nullify the blow of losing Jimmy Williams," Davis says. "Looking at Macho Harris, with his versatility, I think he could easily slide back and forth [between offense and defense], but I think defense will be his calling card."

Despite the early accolades, Harris isn't satisfied. Instead, coaches say, he only wants to get better.

"This kid is hungry," says Torrian Gray, Virginia Tech's secondary coach. "Sometimes kids tell you they want to work and get better, but they don't follow up on it. Macho means it. He is a great person."

Erik Spanberg

### 2005 TEAM STATS

SCORING	440	168
Points Per Game	33.8	12.9
FIRST DOWNS	282	179
Rushing	148	78
Passing	113	85
Penalty	21	16
RUSHING YARDAGE	2479	1244
Yards gained rushing	2851	1584
Yards lost rushing	372	370
Rushing Attempts	599	402
Average Per Rush	4.1	3.0
Average Per Game	190.7	93.4
TDs Rushing	30	6
PASSING YARDAGE	2473	2005
Att-Cmp-Int	301-181-10	387-192-19
Average Per Pass	8.2	5.2
Average Per Catch	13.7	10.4
Average Per Game	190.2	154.2
TDs Passing	18	11
TOTAL OFFENSE	4952	3219
Total Plays	900	789
Average Per Play	5.5	4.1
Average Per Game	380.9	247.6
KICK RETRNs. #-YDS	24-457	49-1012
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	46-408	18-230
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	19-320	10-65
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.0	20.7
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	8.9	12.8
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.8	6.5
FUMBLES-LOST	27	16-8
PENALTIES-YARDS	81-697	91-751
Average Per Game	53.6	57.8
PUNTS-YARDS	52-2244	63-3493
Average Per Punt	43.2	42.1
Net punt average	34.5	36.2
TIME OF POSSESS./GAME	52:37	27:23
3RD-DOWN CONV.	72/170	60/186
3rd-Down Pct	42%	32%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/15	8/14
4th-Down Pct	60%	57%
SACKS BY-YARDS	37-219	34-222
MISC YARDS	20	5
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	55	19
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	19-22	12-18
PAT-ATTEMPTS	51-52	18-18
ATTENDANCE	390590	260889
Games/Avg Per Game	6/65115	5/5278
Neutral Site Games		2/68264

### SCORING

	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Virginia Tech	74	106	137	1.23	440	
Opponents	27	50	61	3.0	168	

### 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

#### OFFENSE

##### PASSING

Marcus Vick	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
13	143.3	177-289-10	61.2	2393	17	184.1

##### RUSHING

Cory Holt	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
6	116.8	4-12-0	33.3	80	1	13.3

##### RECEIVING

David Clowney	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
13	34	619	18.2	3	47.6	
Josh Morgan	13	28	471	16.8	4	36.2

##### DEFENSE

Eddie Royal	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
13	27	315	11.7	2	24.2	

##### TACKLES

Vince Hall	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
13	43	69	112	
James Anderson	13	41	41	82
Aaron Rouse	13	35	42	77

##### SACKS

Darryl Tapp	GP	No.	Yds.
13	10.0	58	
Chris Ellis	13	6.0	33
Jonathan Lewis	13	4.5	40

##### INTERCEPTIONS

Aaron Rouse	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
3	52	1.0	0	
Justin Hamilton	3	60	1.0	0
Roland Minor	3	62	1.0	1

# GEORGIA TECH



# YELLOW JACKETS

Stadium: Bobby Dodd Stadium (55,000)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Chan Gailey, 5th year (28-22)

Career record: 52-33

Assistant coaches: Joe D'Alessandro (off. line), Buddy Geis (asst. head coach/WRs), Jeep Hunter (TEs), Brian Jean-Mary (LBs), Charles Kelly (special teams), Curtis Mockins (RBs), Patrick Nix (off. coord./QBs), Griff Smith (def. line/recruiting coord.), Jon Tenuta (assoc. head coach/def. coord./def. backs)



Reggie Ball, QB

## Yellow Jackets looking to have a real 'Ball' after years of consistent mediocrity under Chan Gailey

**C**onsistency, thy name is Georgia Tech. The Yellow Jackets finished 7-5 in 2005, the ninth straight season they've won at least seven games. Moreover, Georgia Tech is one of only six teams to have played in a bowl each of the past nine seasons.

None of that, however, means Tech fans are especially pleased with the state of the program, particularly in light of archrival Georgia's ascent under Coach Mark Richt. In four seasons under Chan Gailey, the Jackets have never finished better than 7-5. Worse, after posting a 5-3 record in ACC play last season, Tech was snubbed by the bowls it coveted and ended up in San Francisco. Utah embarrassed the Yellow Jackets 38-10 in the Emerald Bowl.

Will Gailey's long-awaited breakthrough—an eight- or nine-win season—finally come this fall? That's not an impossible goal for Tech, which opens against Notre Dame in Atlanta. The Jackets lost four players who made the All-ACC second team in 2005, but they return one of the nation's finest receivers (Calvin Johnson), a solid nucleus on both sides of the ball and one of the game's most creative defensive coordinators (Jon Tenuta).

How high Georgia Tech climbs in the Coastal Division standings figures to hinge in large part on

### RATING THE RECRUTS

- 1. Osahon Tongo, LB, 6-2, 225  
Top recruit in a small class of 15 prospects.
- 2. Bryon Ingram, QB, 6-5, 190  
Lots of potential for son of former NFL player.
- 3. Jamaal Evans, RB, 5-8, 200  
Texan had big high school reputation.
- 4. Ben Anderson, DL, 6-2, 265  
South Carolina product could help immediately on D-line.
- 5. Damaryius Thomas, WR, 6-4, 215  
Rangy wideout is tough to defend.

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★

2005 Record: **7-5** | ACC Coastal: **5-3**

(Lost to Utah in the Emerald Bowl, 38-10)

### 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2005 RESULT
S.2	Notre Dame	
S.9	Samford	
S.16	Troy	
S.21	<b>VIRGINIA</b>	17-27
S.30	@VIRGINIA TECH	7-51
O.7	Maryland	
O.21	@CLEMSON	10-9
O.28	Miami (FL)	14-10
N.4	@M.C. STATE	14-17
N.11	@NORTH CAROLINA	27-21
N.18	Duke	35-10
N.25	@GEORGIA	7-14

### \* GAME TO WATCH \*

In this Thursday night ESPN showcase, the Yellow Jackets will try to end their three-game skid against the Cavaliers.

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/18

#### OFFENSE

QB	1	Reggie Ball (5-11, 195, Sr.)
FB	40	Mike Cox (6-1, 245, Jr.)
TB	22	Tashard Choice (6-1, 205, r-Jr.)
LT	64	Andrew Gardner (6-6, 290, r So.)
LG	61	Matt Rhodes (6-3, 285, r-Jr.)
C	60	Kevin Tuminello (6-4, 285, r-Jr.)
RG	73	Nate McManus (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RT	68	Mansfield Wrotto (6-3, 310, Sr.)
TE	80	George Cooper (6-5, 260, r-Sr.)
WR	21	Calvin Johnson (6-4, 235, Jr.)
WR	89	James Johnson (6-0, 190, r-Sr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	90	Darrell Robertson (6-5, 240, Jr.)
DT	95	Darryl Richard (6-4, 285, r-So.)
DT	96	Joe Anoai (6-3, 280, Sr.)
DE	42	Adamm Oliver (6-4, 265, r-Jr.)
LB	35	KaMichael Hall (6-0, 225, Sr.)
LB	58	Gary Guyton (6-2, 230, Jr.)
LB	41	Philip Wheeler (6-2, 225, r-Jr.)
CB	34	Avery Roberson (6-2, 200, r-Jr.)
CB	2	Kenny Scott (6-2, 185, Sr.)
S	4	Jamal Lewis (6-0, 190, Jr.)
S	23	Dijay Jones (6-1, 200, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	87	Travis Bell (6-0, 210, r-Jr.)
P	39	Durant Brooks (6-1, 198, r-Jr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

quarterback Reggie Ball, who can make breathtaking plays and mystifying decisions in the same series. Heading into his fourth season as a starter, Ball is the third-leading passer in school history, with 6,308 yards. He's thrown 37 touchdown passes and rushed for more than 1,000 yards. But he's also thrown 41 career interceptions.

Eight starters return on offense, and they're joined by Mansfield Wrotto, a three-year starter on the defensive line who's now at tackle. Johnson is among those veterans who will make Ball's job easier. The 6-4, 235-pound junior, a two-time All-ACC pick, has caught 102 passes for 1,725 yards and 13 touchdowns as a jacket

Also back on offense are junior fullback Mike Cox, senior tight end George Cooper and four first-team linemen: junior center Kevin Tuminello, sophomore tackle Andrew Gardner and junior guards Matt Rhodes and Nate McManus. Garner was a Freshman All-American last year. Georgia Tech allowed only 10 sacks in 2005, the fewest of any ACC team.

At tailback, junior Tashard Choice takes over for P.J. Daniels (second-team All-ACC), while Rashawn Grant and Jamaal Evans should provide capable support.

Tenuta has more work ahead of him than does Offensive Coordinator Patrick Nix, the former Auburn quarterback. Gone from a defense that picked off an ACC-best 21 passes are three second team all-conference picks: end Eric Henderson, linebacker Gerris Wilkinson and safety Dawan Landry. Also, Joe Gaston, Tech's most experienced returning safety, suffered a serious knee injury in the spring and might miss this season.

To shore up the secondary, Tech moved Jamai Lewis from cornerback to safety and shifted Pat Clark from wideout to cornerback.

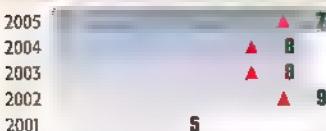
The returning starters on defense are junior end Adamm Oliver, senior tackle Joe Anoai, senior linebacker KaMichael Hall, junior linebacker Philip Wheeler (four interceptions in 2005) and senior cornerback Kenny Scott. Hall and Wheeler had four sacks apiece last season. Also back is sophomore Darryl Richard, a 6-4, 285-pound defensive tackle. Richard was expected to start in 2005, but missed the season after hurting his right knee.

The Jackets hope placekicker Travis Bell can regain the form he showed in 2004, when he was a Freshman All-American choice. Bell was only 11-for-21 on field goals last season.

## VIRGINIA

## CAVALIERS

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL    ★ NATIONAL TITLE

## It's a rebuilding year in Hooville, as early NFL departures rob UVa.

If the Cavaliers (7-5, 3-5) can reduce the high rate of attrition that has depleted the program during Al Groh's tenure as coach, they could contend for the Coastal Division title in 2007. First, however, they have to get through the 2006 season, which may be challenging for a team short on experience.

Twelve players who started at least five games apiece last year have left the team, a group led by All-America offensive tackle D'Brickashaw Ferguson, the No. 4 pick in the NFL Draft. And that doesn't include kickoff specialist Kurt Smith, a sixth-round pick, or safety Nate Lyles, a 2005 starter who's recovering from neck surgery and may not be cleared to play this fall.

Six starters return on both sides of the ball. Departed standouts include kicker Connor Hughes, who scored a school-record 332 points; tailback Wali Lundy, who totaled an ACC record 52 touchdowns; and quarterback Marques Hagans, who threw 27 TD passes in his career. Also gone are defensive end Brennan Schmidt, who tied the ACC record with 51 career starts, linebacker Kai Parham, who was first-team All-ACC in 2005; and linebacker Ahmad Brooks, a former Butkus Award finalist whom Groh kicked off the team.

"We have a significant rebuilding job in front of us," says Groh, who has four assistants who weren't at Virginia last season, among them new coordinators for defense, offense and special teams.

Groh's fifth season as coach at his alma mater ended on a high note when Virginia rallied to upset Minnesota 34-31 in the Music City Bowl. Hagans dazzled in that game, and replacing him won't be easy. Fifth-year senior Christian Olsen, a dropback passer who has yet to start a college game, goes into training camp as the Cavaliers' No. 1 quarterback.

In juniors Tom Santi and Jonathan Stupar, who combined for 43 catches and 677 yards receiving in 2005, and sophomore John Phillips, the Cavs have perhaps the nation's top set of tight ends. The receiving corps is another strength. Senior Deyon Williams caught 58 passes for 767 yards and seven touchdowns in 2005, making honorable-mention All-ACC, and classmate Fontel Mines (28 catches, 345 yards) is another returning starter. Throw in the fleet Andrew Pearman, who sat out last season after transferring from Hawaii, and Virginia has an abundance of good targets. Pearman follows in the footsteps of his brother, former Virginia tailback and current Jacksonville Jaguar Alvin Pearman, and will wear the same number (21).

Not so clear, however, is whether Olsen will have time to find those receivers or whether



PRESEASON RANK.

#4

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record: 7-5      ACC Coastal: 3-5

(beat Minnesota in the Music City Bowl, 34-31)

## S.2 @PITTSBURGH

5.9	Wyoming	31-19
5.16	Western Michigan	27-17
5.21	@GEORGIA TECH	38-7
5.30	@DUKE	33-45
0.7	@EAST CAROLINA	5-7
0.14	Maryland	26-21
0.19	North Carolina	17-25
0.28	North Carolina State	14-52
N.4	@FLORIDA STATE	
N.18	Miami (FL)	
N.25	@VIRGINIA TECH	

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

If the Cavaliers can win their opener, they very well could be 6-0 or 5-1 heading into their Oct. 14 clash with Maryland in Charlottesville.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 32/17

## OFFENSE

QB	11	Christian Olsen (6-3, 216, Sr.)
FB	38	Jason Snelling (5-11, 233, Sr.)
TB	2	Michael Johnson (5-9, 199, Sr.)
LT	75	Eugene Monroe (6-6, 318, So.)
LG	71	Branden Albert (6-7, 306, So.)
C	77	Ian-Yates Cunningham (6-3, 291, Jr.)
RG	78	Marshall Ausberry (6-5, 309, Jr.)
RT	72	Eddie Pinigis (6-7, 292, Jr.)
TE	86	Tom Santi (6-5, 238, Jr.)
WR	81	Deyon Williams (6-3, 185, Sr.)
WR	84	Fontel Mines (6-4, 217, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	91	Chris Long (6-4, 278, Jr.)
NT	94	Allen Bilyk (6-4, 278, Jr.)
DE	93	Alex Field (6-7, 261, So.)
OLB	51	Clint Santi (6-3, 242, So.)
ILB	58	Antonio Appleby (6-4, 244, So.)
ILB	54	Jon Copper (6-0, 226, So.)
OLB	57	Jermaine Dias (6-1, 235, Jr.)
CB	39	Chris Gorham (6-0, 188, Jr.)
CB	3	Marcus Hamilton (5-11, 187, Sr.)
S	21	Byron Glaspy (5-11, 195, So.)
S	27	Jamaal Jackson (6-3, 214, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	9	Chris Gould (6-1, 216, Jr.)
P	16	Ryan Weigand (6-2, 177, Jr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

Stadium: Scott Stadium (61,500)

UVa.'s running backs, a group led by rugged senior Jason Snelling and sophomore Cedric Peerman, will have holes through which to run. None of the Cavaliers' offensive linemen is a senior, and only two starters return. One of them, sophomore guard Branden Albert, might not be academically eligible this fall. Junior Marshal Ausberry is back at the other guard spot, and sophomore Eugene Monroe, Ferguson's replacement, is enormously gifted, but the other linemen are largely unproven.

Groh's new defensive coordinator, Mike London, returned to Charlottesville after one year as a Houston Texans assistant. London's charges include but one senior—cornerback Marcus Hamilton, who led the ACC with six interceptions and made the all-conference second team last year. The defense was expected to be more experienced, but Parham left early to pursue his NFL dream, and three other probable starters, including Brooks and safety Tony Franklin, were kicked off the team in the offseason.

Virginia, whose base defense is the 3-4, recorded only 19 sacks last season, the second fewest in the ACC, and Parham had nearly half of them. The Cavs need to generate more of a pass rush this year, and junior end Chris Long, son of Pro Football Hall-of-Famer Howie Long, has big-play ability. Long's fellow linemen include junior nose tackles Allen Bilyk and Keenan Carter, redshirt-freshman end Jeffrey Fitzgerald and sophomore end Alex Field.

If sophomore linebackers Clint Santi and Antonio Appleby earn All-ACC honors one day, it won't be a surprise. Santi starts on the outside and Appleby on the inside. Junior Jermaine Dias also returns at outside linebacker, but his contribution so far has been modest.

Virginia is uncharacteristically deep and talented at cornerback, where redshirt freshman Vic Hall, sophomores Chris Cook and Mike Brown and junior Chris Gorham join Hamilton. There's less experience at safety, but sophomore Byron Glaspy and junior Jamaal Jackson, Virginia's starters in the Music City Bowl, are back. If Lyles is cleared to play again, he has All-ACC potential.

Head coach: Al Groh, 6th year (37-26)

Career record: 63-66

Assistant coaches: Mike London (def. coord./def line), Steve Bernstein (asst. head coach/def backs), Bob Diaco (special teams coord./LBs), Levern Belin (def. asst./asst. def. line), Mike Groh (off. coord./recruiting coord./QBs), John Garrett (asst. head coach off./WRs), Dave Borbeck (running game coord./off. line), Bob Price (assst. recruiting coord./TEs), Anthony Ponderer (asst. special teams coord./RBs)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Keith Payne, RB, 6-3, 195  
State Player of Year came on strong.

2. B.J. Cabell, OL, 6-6, 295  
Promising blocker who comes up big in the trenches.

3. Asa Chapman, OL, 6-5, 330  
Man/mountain block's out sun.

4. DeAndre Filer, DB, 5-10, 168  
Skilled athlete from Tidewater area.

5. Ras-I Dowling, WR, 6-2, 180  
Another skill player from Tidewater.



CHAPEL HILL

DURHAM, N.C.

# NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	▲ 6
2003	2
2002	3
2001	▲ 8

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** John Bunting, 6th year (24-36)  
**Career record:** 62-50-2  
**Stadium:** Kenan Stadium  
**Capacity:** 60,000  
**Official athletic Web site:** [www.tarheelblue.com](http://www.tarheelblue.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE / OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2 Rutgers	
S.9 Virginia Tech	3-30
S.16 Furman	
S.23 @CLEMSON	
O.7 @MIAMI (FL)	16-34
O.14 South Florida	
O.19 @VIRGINIA	7-5
O.26 Wake Forest	
N.4 @NOTRE DAME	
N.11 Georgia Tech	21-27
N.18 North Carolina State	31-24
N.25 @DUKE	24-21

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Carolina hasn't won in Charlottesville since 1981, but the breakthrough may come this year.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 37/23

OFFENSE	
QB 12	Joe Dailey (6-1, 205, Jr.)
FB 43	Nick Starcic (6-2, 235, So.)
TB 25	Ronnie McGill (5-11, 220, Sr.)
LT 65	Brian Chacos (6-4, 301, Sr.)
LG 77	Charlston Gray (6-3, 301, Jr.)
C 63	Ben Lemming (6-5, 301, So.)
RG 72	Kyle Jolly (6-6, 300, Fr.)
RT 73	Garrett Reynolds (6-7, 300, So.)
TE 86	Jon Hamlett (6-4, 260, Sr.)
WR 9	Jesse Holley (6-3, 208, Sr.)
WR 88	Brooks Foster (6-3, 200, So.)

DEFENSE	
LE 42	Brian Rackley (6-5, 263, Sr.)
DT 75	Shelton Bynum (6-5, 295, Sr.)
DT 74	Kyndraus Guy (6-2, 282, Jr.)
RE 90	Kentwan Balmer (6-5, 285, Jr.)
SLB 32	Larry Edwards (6-3, 230, Sr.)
MLB 48	Durell Mapp (6-2, 220, Jr.)
WLB 44	Chase Rice (6-3, 220, So.)
CB 16	Jacoby Walkins (6-0, 190, Sr.)
CB 3	Quinton Person (5-11, 185, Jr.)
FS 27	Karen Taylor (6-0, 200, Sr.)
SS 31	Trimane Goddard (5-11, 185, So.)

SPECIALISTS	
PK 10	Connor Barth (6-1, 192, Jr.)
P 45	David Woolridge (6-2, 200, Sr.)

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, 4-4 ACC

A season ago, North Carolina beat four teams that ended up in bowls: N.C. State, Utah, Virginia and N.C. State. That was a small consolation for the Tar Heels (5-6, 4-4). They spent the postseason at home, in part because they'd again chosen to play a rugged out-of-conference schedule (Wisconsin, Utah and Louisville).

The Tar Heels have scheduled less ambitiously this season, and the result may be a trip to a bowl for sixth-year Coach John Bunting's squad. Carolina also should benefit from the addition of Frank Cignetti, one of three new assistants. Cignetti, the Heels' offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, oversaw high scoring offenses at his previous stop, Fresno State.

UNC has an experienced nucleus on each side of the ball, with talented young players in complementary roles. Of the five returning starters on offense, four are seniors, and the other is a junior. Five of the seven starters back on defense are seniors

The Tar Heels ranked second to last in the ACC in rushing offense last year, even with Kyle Ralph, a first-team all-conference pick, at guard. Ralph is gone, but if Bunting can surround returning linemen Brian Chacos (tackle) and Charlston Gray (guard) with capable blockers, the running game should be more potent. When he's healthy, senior Ronnie McGill is one of the ACC's better tailbacks, and junior Barrington Edwards has shown promise. Between them, they rushed for 927 yards and seven touchdowns in 2005.

Senior Jon Hamlett (21 catches, 212 yards) returns at tight end, and senior Jesse Holley is one of the ACC's top wideouts. In 2005, the 6-3, 208-pound Holley caught 47 passes for 670 yards.

Getting the football to Holley will be redshirt freshman Cam Sexton or junior Joe Dailey, who sat out last season after transferring from Nebraska, where he started 11 games in 2004. Dailey passed for 2,025 yards and 17 TDs—with 19 interceptions—for the Cornhuskers as a sophomore.

Seven starters are back on defense, including sophomore safety Trimane Goddard, who led UNC with three interceptions. The most experienced defender is senior linebacker Larry Edwards, an All-ACC candidate who has 21 career starts and tied for the team lead in tackles last season



# DUKE BLUE DEVILS

2005 Record: 1-10 overall, 0-8 ACC

Cornerback John Talley, who made the All-ACC second team in 2004, earned first-team honors last season. For the Blue Devils (1-10, 0-8), there weren't many other highlights in Ted Roof's second full season as their coach. Duke's only win was over Division I-AA Virginia Military Institute, and Roof's club surrendered 35 or more points in seven games.

Unfortunately for Roof, who has worked tirelessly to try to turn things around in Durham, another miserable season seems likely for the Devils. Duke returns only 13 starters, the second fewest of any ACC team.

Especially depleted was Roof's offense, which must replace seven starters, including the players who ranked 1-3 in receptions last season: H-back Ben Patrick, tight end Andy Roland and wideout Ronnie Elliott. And to say Duke has four starters back on offense is probably stretching things. Two of those listed as returning first-teamers—sophomore wide receiver Eron Riley and junior tailback Justin Boyle—made just seven starts between them.

The good news for Offensive Coordinator Bill O'Brien is that his top three rushers from 2005 are back: Boyle (458 yards), junior Ronnie Drummer (337) and sophomore Re'quan Boyette (252). The bad news: Junior center Matt Rumsey is the lone starter back on the line, so the holes for those runners may not be very wide or stay open very long.

Seven true freshmen started at least one game for the Devils last season, and Roof used 14 in all. Among the most prominent was quarterback Zack Asack, who started six of the final seven games. Asack completed 90 of 180 passes for 966 yards and five touchdowns in nine games. He was intercepted eight times.

Roof hasn't handed the starting job to Asack yet. Also in the mix is sophomore Marcus Jones, who played both QB and wideout last season. Jones started five games at receiver and finished the season with 11 catches for 90 yards and one touchdown.

Duke's top returning receiver is Riley, who had 11 catches for 247 yards and two TDs last year.

The outlook for the Devils' defense is brighter. Seven starters return, most notably Talley, whose 11 career interceptions is tied for the lead among returning Division I-A players.

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	1
2004	2
2003	4
2002	2
2001	0

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Ted Roof, 3rd year (5-22)  
**Career record:** 5-22  
**Stadium:** Wallace Wade Stadium  
**Capacity:** 33,941  
**Official athletic Web site:** [www.goduke.com](http://www.goduke.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE / OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2 RICHMOND	
S.9 @WAKE FOREST	6-44
S.16 @VIRGINIA TECH	0-45
S.30 Virginia	7-38
O.7 @ALABAMA	
O.14 Florida State	24-55
O.21 Miami (FL)	7-52
O.28 Vanderbilt	
N.4 Navy	21-28
N.11 @BOSTON COLLEGE	
N.18 @GEORGIA TECH	10-35
N.25 North Carolina	21-24

## GAME TO WATCH

The Spiders were among the better teams in Division I-AA last season, but this is a game Duke must win. A loss would dampen any optimism in Durham.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 34/30

OFFENSE	
QB 13	Zack Asack (6-4, 200, So.)
FB 2	Taylor Robinson (5-11, 245, Jr.)
RB 20	Justin Boyle (6-1, 225, Jr.)
LT 74	Cameron Goldberg (6-6, 280, Sr.)
LG 76	Zach Maurides (6-6, 290, Jr.)
C 68	Matt Rumsey (6-4, 285, Jr.)
RG 61	Rob Schirrman (6-5, 285, So.)
RT 70	Fred Roland (6-8, 310, So.)
TE 80	Nick Stefanow (6-4, 235, Jr.)
WR 81	Jamar Wright (6-1, 200, So.)
WR 15	Eron Riley (6-3, 200, So.)

## DEFENSE

DE 52	El Nichols (6-4, 260, Sr.)
DT 51	Casey Camero (6-5, 280, Sr.)
NG 3	Vince Oghobase (6-6, 310, Sr.)
DE 84	Patrick Bailey (6-4, 230, Jr.)
SLB 58	Codey Lowe (6-2, 235, Sr.)
MLB 34	Michael Taillieu (5-11, 235, So.)
WLL 25	Jeremy Edwards (6-0, 220, Sr.)
CB 11	John Talley (5-11, 180, Sr.)
CB 10	Deonto McCormick (5-10, Sr.)
FS 27	Chris Davis (6-0, 205, Jr.)
SS 16	Andreas Plat (6-2, 200, So.)

## SPECIALISTS

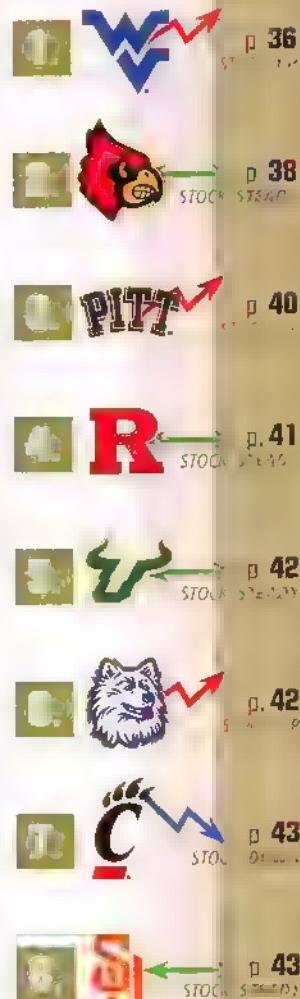
PK 26	Joe Surjan (6-4, 210, So.)
P 12	Alex Fenberg (5-0, 210, Jr.)

**RATING THE PLAYERS:**

<b>Fastest receiver</b>	Brandon Myles, WR, West Virginia
<b>Best hands</b>	Clark Harris, TE, Rutgers
<b>Best passing QB</b>	Brian Brohm, Louisville
<b>Best running QB</b>	Pat White, West Virginia

<b>Most elusive RB</b>	Michael Bush, Louisville
<b>Best instincts</b>	Steve Slaton, RB, West Virginia
<b>Best athlete</b>	Amari Jackson, WR, South Florida
<b>Best under pressure</b>	Tyler Palko, QB, Pittsburgh

<b>Top NFL prospect</b>	Michael Bush, RB, Louisville
<b>Top impact freshman</b>	Delone Carter, RB, Syracuse
<b>Hardest hitter</b>	H.B. Blades, LB, Pittsburgh
<b>Biggest underachiever</b>	Perry Patterson, QB, Syracuse

**Predicted order of finish:****With a legit national-title contender in Morgantown, renovated Big East has nothing to be ashamed of**

By PETE WILLIAMS Street &amp; Smith's Correspondent

**Can anyone force West Virginia to pass?** South Florida has the linebackers to apply pressure, but might not keep the game close enough. An emerging Pittsburgh squad could make things interesting.

**Who will be more fun to watch:** West Virginia's Pat White and Steve Slaton or Louisville's Brian Brohm and Michael Bush? It might be a matter of taste. Rich Rodriguez's spread offense is flashier, but Louisville's duo offers a more balanced attack.

**What early NFL entry will be the most missed?** Connecticut will be fine with Terry Caulley taking over for Cornell Brockington, but Pitt will miss big flanker Greg Lee.

**Which team is for real: Rutgers or South Florida?** They're both legit, but their records might not show it with West Virginia and Louisville dominant and Pitt on the rebound.

**Will Syracuse win a conference game?** It might be tough as the Orange play the top foes at home and lesser opponents on the road. At home against Connecticut Nov. 18 might be the best bet.

**RECRUITING ROUNDUP**

**PITTSBURGH:** Dave Wannstedt delivered a top-25 class. Tight end Nate Byham, RB Kevin Collier and DL Jason Pinkston could play immediately.

**LOUISVILLE:** Late pickups of safety Brandon Heath and DE Deantwan White head boosted the Cards into the top 25 nationally.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Mountaineers bring in a small but solid class headlined by wide receiver John Maddox.

**RUTGERS:** Scarlet Knights are making inroads in Florida even as they lose New Jersey kids. Scored a coup when in-state CB/RB Kordell Young pulled out of a commitment to Virginia.

**SOUTH FLORIDA:** Bulls starting to compete for big-time in-state recruits.

Biggest scores were DT Leslie Stirrup of Tampa and DE Joseph Jackson of Miami.

**SYRACUSE:** Running back Delone Carter, QB Andrew Robinson and WR Andre Baskin will form a nice nucleus for 2007 and beyond.

**CONNECTICUT:** Cornerback James Nixon turned down big-time programs in favor of the Huskies. Wideout Brad Kanuck was also a good pickup.

**CINCINNATI:** The Bearcats signed mostly second-tier players, but did score a coup by luring DT Oren Wilson away from New Jersey and Rutgers.

When Miami, Virginia Tech and Boston College departed for the ACC, many figured they would take the "Big" in Big East with them. The reconfigured version, a geographic hodgepodge of holdovers and Conference USA additions, did not seem worthy of an automatic BCS bid.

What a difference a year makes. Nobody is going to mistake the new Big East for the SEC or ACC, but few schools are lining up to play non-conference games against a league in which every team seems to be on the upswing.

Each of the eight teams has played in a bowl game at least once over the last two seasons, an accomplishment no other conference can boast. Anyone still wondering if the Big East lacks a true national-title contender hasn't spent much time in Morgantown lately.

A steady parade of representatives from big-name college programs visited West Virginia during the offseason to study Rich Rodriguez's version of the spread offense. The Big East Coach of the Year welcomed the visitors, but it's doubtful anyone has the personnel to replicate the potent Mountaineers attack.

With run-first quarterback Pat White and true sophomore Steve Slaton at tailback, Rodriguez has arguably the youngest, most explosive tandem in the nation. The Mountaineers, who finished

an 11-1 season on a seven-game winning streak, don't pass much and might be hard-pressed to do so extensively. But with an experienced defense and White and Slaton providing the offense, that might not matter.

If White and Slaton are the flashiest duo, then Louisville's Brian Brohm, running back Michael Bush and wide receiver Mario Urrutia form the top trio. The Cardinals were a popular pre season national-title darkhorse last season. They're well-armed again this year, but Bobby Petrino's squad will need to avoid the type of epic collapses it had against South Florida and West Virginia in 2005.

Coach Dave Wannstedt wants people to think his Pittsburgh Panthers are rebuilding. After all, they're coming off a 5-6 season and bring in one of the nation's better recruiting classes. But with NFL-ready linebacker H.B. Blades heading an experienced defense and steady quarterback Tyler Palko back, Wannstedt should be able to plug the remaining holes with several talented true freshmen. The Panthers also have the most favorable breakdown of home/road matchups in the conference.

Rutgers can no longer be considered an automatic conference win. The Scarlet Knights have underrated weapons in tailback Ray Rice, fullback Brian Leonard and tight end Clark Harris.

**OFFENSE**

QB	Brian Brohm, Jr., Louisville
WR	Mario Urrutia, So., Louisville
WR	Amari Jackson, Jr., South Florida
RB	Michael Bush, Sr., Louisville
RB	Steve Slaton, So., West Virginia
TE	Clark Harris, Sr., Rutgers
OL	Dan Mozes, Sr., West Virginia
OL	Theodric Watson, Sr., South Florida
OL	Kurt Quarterman, Sr., Louisville
OL	Jeremy Sheffey, Sr., West Virginia
OL	Pedro Sosa, Sr., Rutgers
PK	Art Carmody, Jr., Louisville

**DEFENSE**

DL	Chris McKillop, Jr., Pittsburgh
DL	Rhema Fuller, Sr., Connecticut
DL	Amobi Okoye, Sr., Louisville
DL	Keilen Dylas, Jr., West Virginia
LB	H.B. Blades, Sr., Pittsburgh
LB	Stephen Nicholas, Sr., South Florida
LB	Kevin McLee, Sr., West Virginia
DB	Darrelle Revis, Jr., Pittsburgh
DB	Ere Wicks, Sr., West Virginia
DB	Mike Jenkins, Jr., South Florida
DB	Mike Mickens, So., Cincinnati
P	Brendan Carney, Sr., Syracuse

## WEST VIRGINIA



## BIG EAST

### The Rich get richer as this group in Morgantown is darn 'Neer perfect

Last season was supposed to be a rebuilding one for West Virginia. Instead, the Mountaineers bulldozed the Big East, suffered a lone non-conference loss to Virginia Tech, placed an exclamation point on the season with a win over Georgia in the Sugar Bowl, and finished No. 5 in the final *Associated Press* poll.

West Virginia has won at least a share of the last three Big East championships. Rich Rodriguez, the 2005 Big East Coach of the Year, now has arguably the most experienced and talented roster he's had as he enters his sixth year at the helm of his alma mater. Fifty-one lettermen return. Fifteen of them are starters, including nine on offense, and a weak non-league schedule has Mountaineers fans envisioning an undefeated season.

Not that the Mountaineers will sneak up on anyone. They're slated to play five games on national television this year.

Rodriguez runs the increasingly popular spread offense, a no-huddle, shotgun, run-first

#### RATING THE RECRUTS

**1** **Ryan Brinson, DB, 5-9, 175**  
Prep school helped ex-Ohio standout.

**2** **Greg Davis, DB, 6-2, 205**  
Touted Virginia athlete might contribute early.

**3** **Eddie Davis, DB, 5-11, 185**  
Mountaineers needed depth in the secondary.

**4** **Eric Jobe, DL, 6-2, 270**  
Maryland product has plenty of potential.

**5** **John Maddox, DB, 6-3, 170**  
Two-way athlete boosts secondary haul.



PRESEASON RANK:

#1

#### POWER RATINGS

##### OFFENSE

##### DEFENSE

##### SPECIAL TEAMS

##### COACHING

2005 Record

**11-1** Big East  
**7-0**

(beat Georgia in the Sugar Bowl, 38-35)

#### 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Marshall	
S.9	Eastern Washington	
S.14	Maryland	31-19
S.23	@EAST CAROLINA	20-15
O.7	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
O.14	Syracuse	15-7
O.20	@CONNECTICUT	45-13
N.2	@LOUISVILLE	46-44 (OT)
N.11	Cincinnati	38-0
<b>W.E. SUGAR BOWL</b>		<b>16-13</b>
N.25	South Florida	28-13
D.2	Rutgers	27-14

#### ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

This tough road rivalry game against improved Pitt on Thursday night looms as the Mountaineers' last big test.

#### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 51/19

#### OFFENSE

<b>QB</b>	<b>5</b>	Pat White (6-2, 185, So.)
<b>FB</b>	<b>35</b>	Owen Schmitt (6-3, 245, Jr.)
<b>TB</b>	<b>10</b>	Steve Slaton (5-10, 185, So.)
<b>LT</b>	<b>71</b>	Damien Crissey (6-4, 280, Sr.)
<b>LG</b>	<b>62</b>	Ryan Stanchek (6-4, 285, So.)
<b>C</b>	<b>76</b>	Dan Mozes (6-4, 290, Sr.)
<b>RG</b>	<b>65</b>	Jeremy Sheffey (6-3, 295, Sr.)
<b>RT</b>	<b>73</b>	Jake Figner (6-5, 285, So.)
<b>TE</b>	<b>49</b>	Josh Baeuy (6-5, 265, Sr.)
<b>WR</b>	<b>7</b>	Brandon Myles (6-3, 190, Sr.)
<b>WR</b>	<b>2</b>	Darius Reynaud (5-10, 200, Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

<b>DT</b>	<b>96</b>	Keilen Dykes (6-4, 290, Jr.)
<b>NT</b>	<b>98</b>	Pat Liebig (6-4, 270, Jr.)
<b>DE</b>	<b>92</b>	Johnny Dingle (6-3, 255, Jr.)
<b>LLB</b>	<b>55</b>	Bobby Hathaway (6-1, 225, Jr.)
<b>MLB</b>	<b>55</b>	Jay Henry (6-2, 225, Sr.)
<b>RLB</b>	<b>43</b>	Kevin McLee (6-1, 255, Sr.)
<b>CB</b>	<b>3</b>	Larry Williams (6-1, 185, Jr.)
<b>CB</b>	<b>6</b>	Antonio Lewis (5-10, 190, Jr.)
<b>BS</b>	<b>22</b>	Ridwan Malik (6-1, 195, Jr.)
<b>FS</b>	<b>18</b>	Abraham Jones (6-1, 190, Sr.)

**SS** 11 Fred Walker (6-1, 210, Jr.)

**PK** 40 Pat McAfee (6-1, 205, So.)

**P** 37 Scott Kozlowski (6-0, 190, r-Fr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

## MOUNTAINEERS

Stadium: Mountaineer Field at Milan Puskar Stadium (60,000)

#### 5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ■ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Rich Rodriguez, 6th year (39-22)

Career record: 39-22 (Division I-A)

Assistant coaches: Rick Trickett (asst. head coach/off. line), Jeff Casteel (def. coord./LBs), Calvin Magee (off. coord./RBs), Tony Gibson (def backs), Herb Hand (TEs/recruiting coord.), Butch Jones (WRs), Bill Kireawich (def. line), Bill Stewart (QBs/special teams), Bruce Tall (safeties)

version that has attracted a parade of visitors from other programs to Morgantown looking for pointers. Though the team lines up in sets featuring three and even four wide receivers, the Mountaineers focus on the ground game. Not once did they pass for 200 yards in a single game last season. Quarterback Pat White rushed for 100 yards in four of his five starts.

White, just a redshirt sophomore, has plenty of help. Steve Slaton averaged nearly 113 yards per game as a true freshman. He tied a Big East record with six touchdowns in West Virginia's triple-overtime win over Louisville and earned Sugar Bowl MVP honors after rushing for 204 yards. Jason Gwaltney, a *Parade* All-American who was the more touted runner in last year's class, transferred to a junior college. Fullback Owen Schmitt is the unsung weapon in the offense, giving defenses fits with his size and speed.

The Mountaineers did not find a big-play wide receiver to replace Chris Henry last season, though 6-3 Brandon Myles, a senior with 4.3 speed, should draw some interest from NFL scouts. Rayshawn Bolden, a starter last year, is coming off a knee injury sustained in the Sugar Bowl and missed spring practice. Junior Darius Reynaud ranked second on the team in 2005 with 30 receptions for 297 yards and a team-best five touchdown receptions. He figures to assume a more prominent role, as does junior Brandon Barrett, who caught five passes for 111 yards and a TD in the spring game.

The offensive line returns mostly intact. The team has the best interior in the league with center Dan Mozes and right guard Jeremy Sheffey, both seniors, and left guard Ryan Stanchek, who joined White on several Freshman All-America teams. The 6-4, 290 pound Mozes figures to be among the top centers in the 2007 NFL Draft.

The tackle position is more unsettled, with replacements needed for Travis Garrett and Garin Justice. Replacing Garrett on the left side is vital and the front-runners there are Damien Crissey and Chris Bassler, who spent all of last season out recovering from knee surgery. Jake Figner, a sophomore, will get a look at Justice's right-tackle spot.

Because of the flashy offense, coordinator Jeff Casteel's defensive unit often gets overlooked. That's unfair since the defense ranked 15th nationally in total yards allowed, 13th in points allowed and 19th in rushing yards.

Like the offense, the defense is unusual and complex. Casteel employs a 3-3-5 configuration, with three safeties, including a strong safety who acts as a hybrid outside linebacker. Any of the back eight can blitz or cover.

Casteel likes for the three down linemen to clog the lanes, letting the other eight make plays. Keilen Dykes, a junior, is a rising star. Pat Liebig has seen a lot of playing time and projects as the starter at nose guard, though coaches are high on incoming freshman Chris Neild, a linebacker/tight end in high school.

The linebacking corps is led by senior Kevin "Boo" McLee, who finished second on the team with 78 tackles and was first-team All-Big East. There is no better weakside linebacker in the conference. Middle linebacker Jay Henry, a senior, also returns, and the unit will receive a big boost from Barry "The Pipe" Wright, a transfer from Florida State who sat out last season. Wright, a one-time junior-college player who will be a senior, got lost on the depth chart in Tallahassee, but Mountaineer coaches are enamored with his speed. Reed Williams has made a successful move from inside to outside linebacker and will see some reps.

The Mountaineers must replace several key performers in the secondary, including Jahmille Addae and Mike Lorello, and might turn to their incoming class. There's no shortage of talent and speed among the rookies and returnees.

Senior Eric Wicks, a second-team all-conference safety, is an emerging star. Ridwan Malik,

a junior, played behind Lorello last season and figures to move up on the depth chart. Antonio Lewis, best known for his returning skills, is a two-year letterman who projects as a starter at cornerback. The other corner slot could go to Greg "Hollywood" Davis, one of the top prep players in Virginia last season who chose the Mountaineers over Tennessee. He'll have a lot of competition from a field that includes Larry Williams and Ryan Brinson.

For the Mountaineers to make a run at the national title, the defense must be at least as good as last season. Newcomers Neild, Wright and Davis should raise the overall athleticism of the unit and the depth at secondary should offset the losses of Addae and Lorello.

As usual, the Mountaineers should have among the nation's better special teams, led by sophomore kicker Pat McAfee. Lewis was the main reason the Mountaineers ranked among the top 20 in both kickoff-return and punt-return yardage last year.

The biggest question mark is how White will perform if forced to pass.

But with a potent defense, dominant offense and lighter schedule, the Mountaineers might not be playing from behind too often.



## NEXT BIG THING OWEN SCHMITT, junior fullback

**Look out, Rudy. Here comes Owen Schmitt,** a 245-pound fullback who came out of nowhere last season to spark a fearsome rushing attack at West Virginia.

Schmitt, who spent his freshman year at Division III Wisconsin-River Falls and then went in search of a Division I program willing to take him on, found little interest. West Virginia took a chance—but not too big.

Schmitt came to Morgantown as a walk-on. By the time the Mountaineers played Georgia in the Sugar Bowl last season, the bruising fullback was inevitably being described as a cult hero and opening sizable holes for the running tandem of Pat White and Steve Slaton.

"Owen Schmitt is just a great college football story," says Charles Davis, a TBS college football analyst. "He was the only guy in the country who thought he could play at a higher level—and he was right. He's just a hammerhead, a guy who thinks something is wrong if he doesn't have five knockdowns a game."

Davis worries West Virginia fans may come to expect too much from Schmitt after a sterling Sugar Bowl that included an atypical 82 yards rushing, including a 54-yard rumble on a third-and-one play. Those rushing numbers aren't likely to be repeated, as Slaton and White will

handle the ball most of the time.

Rushing yardage isn't what drives Schmitt, anyway. Nor is it the reason West Virginia coaches love the overachieving junior. As long as Schmitt retains his zealous workout regimen and blocking infatuation, the Mountaineers should be just fine.

"What I like about our offense is that I get to make a lot of big blocks," Schmitt says. "The idea is that you chip away, chip away and then something breaks. That's what Coach [Rich] Rodriguez loves to do."

Schmitt says WVU's players have already bought into Rodriguez's mantra for the upcoming season: "Stay hungry and stay humble."

After winning the Sugar Bowl—a step Schmitt says was a real breakthrough for a program rarely able to win major bowl games—and with the baffling backfield intact, West Virginia seems poised for another run (what else?) through the Big East.

"It's an amazing group," Schmitt says. "But we have to keep working. What we do on the practice field will determine what we do this season. I think we're willing to work hard again."

If Schmitt is any example, let there be no doubt about that

—Erik Spanberg

## 2005 TEAM STATS

SCORING	385	214
Points Per Game	32.1	17.8
FIRST DOWNS	225	212
Rushing	150	91
Passing	64	110
Penalty	13	11
RUSHING YARDAGE	3,269	1,316
Yards gained rushing	3,536	1,658
Yards lost rushing	267	352
Rushing Attempts	625	452
Average Per Rush	5.2	2.9
Average Per Game	272.4	109.7
TDs Rushing	34	14
PASSING YARDAGE	1,398	2,413
Att-Cmp-Int	122-193-7	221-370-17
Average Per Pass	7.2	6.5
Average Per Catch	11.5	10.9
Average Per Game	116.5	201.1
TDs Passing	12	12
TOTAL OFFENSE	4,667	3,729
Total Plays	818	822
Average Per Play	5.7	4.5
Average Per Game	388.9	310.8
KICK RETURNS #-YDS	32/738	44/847
PUNT RETURNS #-YDS	23/358	21/162
INT RETURNS #-YDS	17/151	7/76
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.1	19.2
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	15.6	7.7
INT RETURN AVERAGE	8.9	10.9
FUMBLES-LOST	18-10	35-14
PENALTIES-YARDS	82-697	62-495
Average Per Game	58.1	41.2
PUNTS-YARDS	57-2,190	67,2,542
Average Per Punt	38.4	39.4
Net punt average	35.6	34.1
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME	30:57	29:03
3RD-DOWN CONV.	79/174	66/179
3rd Down Pct	45%	37%
4TH-DOWN CONV	9/14	10.22
4th Down Pct	64%	45%
SACKS BY YARDS	25-194	18-95
MISC YARDS	14	14
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	50	26
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	11-18	12-13
PAT-ATTEMPTS	48-49	22-23
ATTENDANCE	537,720	190,715
Games Avg Per Game	6/5,287	5/38,145
Neutral Site Games	1/74,458	

West Virginia	98	114	53	96	22	385
Opponent	30	74	43	47	20	214

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

### OFFENSE

#### PASSING

Pat White	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	12	132.41	65-114-5	57.0	828	8	69.0
Adam Bednarik	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	9	145.18	55-75-2	73.3	532	4	59.1
J.R. House	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	2	129.80	2-4-0	50.0	38	0	19.0

<b>RUSHING</b>	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Steve Slaton	10	205	1128	5.5	17	112.8
Pat White	12	131	952	7.3	7	79.3
Owen Schmitt	12	48	380	7.9	2	31.7

<b>RECEIVING</b>	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Brandon Myres	12	34	536	15.8	3	44.7
Darius Reynaud	12	30	297	9.9	5	24.8
Steve Slaton	10	12	95	7.9	2	9.5

#### DEFENSE

<b>TACKLES</b>	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Mike Lorello	12	53	29	82
Kevin McLee	12	46	32	78
Jahmille Addae	12	35	29	64

<b>SACKS</b>	GP	No.	Yds.
Keilen Dykes	12	5.0	24
Mike Lorello	12	3.0	23
Johnny Dingle	12	3.0	21

<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b>	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Dee McCann	4	6	1.5	0
Mike Lorello	3	7	2.3	0
Jahmille Addae	2	44	22.0	1



LOUISVILLE

## LOUISVILLE

## Cards should deal high-scoring offense behind quarterback Brohm and explosive running back Bush

A year ago, Louisville was a popular preseason choice for No. 1. After all, the team had gone 11-1 in 2004 and faced a schedule consisting of a depleted Big East and a weak non-conference slate.

The Cards lost just two regular-season games in 2005, but they were embarrassing ones, falling 45-14 in Week Three at South Florida and blowing a 24-7, fourth-quarter lead at West Virginia in midseason. A loss to former Big East member Virginia Tech in the Gator Bowl did little to silence the critics.

Now, fourth-year Coach Bobby Petrino (29-8) and his troops know better than to overlook anyone, especially not with a tougher schedule in 2006 that includes first-month matchups against Miami and Kansas State.

The good news is that the conference schedule is backloaded, with only Cincinnati and Syracuse before November and West Virginia, South Florida and Connecticut coming to Louisville.

Dominating defensive end Elvis Dumervil will be missed, but with Louisville's explosive offense, it's a loss that won't be too much of a burden.

The Cards are well-armed, with perhaps the nation's best quarterback/running back tandem now that Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush have departed for the NFL. Like Southern Cal last season, Louisville has a Heisman Trophy candidate named Bush in the backfield. Michael Bush opted to return after a junior season in which he rushed for 1,143 yards and led the nation in scoring despite playing only 10 games. A fast, punishing runner at 6-3 and 250 pounds, Bush could be the Reggie Bush of 2006. Senior Kolby Smith won't get much press or many carries, but he's a capable backup.

The Cardinals put up more points (43.4 per game) than any team but USC and Texas last year and averaged 482 yards a contest, ninth in the nation. They scored more than 60 points three times and topped 40 on eight occasions.

Brian Brohm completed 68.8 percent of his passes as a sophomore, throwing for 2,883 yards, 19 touchdowns and just five interceptions, and posted the second-best passer rating (166.7) in the nation. He's fully recovered from a torn ACL suffered in the next-to-last regular-season game.

With Brohm nursing his knee injury in the spring, Hunter Cantwell solidified his job as a capable No. 2, throwing for 321 yards and three touchdowns in the spring game. Cantwell, who

### RATING THE RECRUTS

**1** **Troy Paschall, WR, 6-2, 185**  
Ohio prep could be a sleeper.

**2** **Kareem Crowell, DL, 6-4, 310**  
Brings talents from Sunshine State

**3** **Aundre Henderson, DL, 6-4, 285**  
Home-grown prospect has promise.

**4** **Deantwan Whitehead, DE, 6-6, 245**  
Alabama athlete is a touted defender

**5** **Zach Meagher, TE, 6-4, 248**  
Cincinnati product is a solid blocker and receiver.



PRESEASON RANK

#2

## POWER RATINGS

	OFFENSE	DEFENSE	SPECIAL TEAMS	COACHING
2005	★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
2004	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
2003	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
2002	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
2001	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★

2005 Record: **9-3** Big East: **5-2**

(lost to Virginia Tech in the Gator Bowl, 35-24)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2005 RESULT
S.2	Kentucky	31-24
S.9	TEMPE	
S.16	MARSH (TUE)	
S.23	@KANSAS STATE	
O.6	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	
O.14	Cincinnati	46-22
O.21	@SYRACUSE	41-17
N.2	West Virginia	44-46 (OT)
N.9	@RUTGERS	56-5
N.16	South Florida	14-45
N.25	@PITTBURGH	42-20
D.2	Connecticut	30-20

## GAME TO WATCH

*The Cardinals' upperclassmen still reel from an epic collapse at Miami in 2004*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/14

## OFFENSE

QB	12 Brian Brohm (6-4, 224, Jr.)
FB	47 Denontae Taylor (5-8, 244, Sr.)
RB	19 Michael Bush (6-3, 250, Sr.)
LT	69 Marcel Benson (6-6, 318, Jr.)
LG	63 Danny Barlowe (6-5, 290, Jr.)
C	77 Eric Wood (6-4, 296, So.)
RG	76 Kurt Quartermann (6-5, 336, Sr.)
RT	79 Renardo Foster (6-7, 322, Sr.)
TE	82 Gary Barnidge (6-6, 236, Jr.)
WR	7 Mario Urrutia (6-6, 228, So.)
WR	85 Harry Douglas (5-11, 170, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	96 Zach Anderson (6-4, 268, Sr.)
DT	94 Adrian Grady (6-2, 292, So.)
DT	91 Amobi Okoye (6-1, 312, Sr.)
DE	88 Brandon Cox (6-4, 253, Jr.)
SLB	11 Malt Jackson (6-2, 231, Jr.)
MLB	10 Nate Harris (6-1, 236, Sr.)
WLB	43 Abe Brown (6-4, 230, Sr.)
CB	14 Rod Council (5-11, 189, So.)
CB	21 William Gay (5-11, 184, Sr.)
FS	35 Brandon Sharp (5-11, 195, Sr.)
SS	13 Jonathan Russell (5-10, 194, So.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	18 Art Carmody (5-8, 181, Jr.)
P	36 Todd Flannery (6-0, 170, Jr.)

## CARDINALS

Stadium: Papa John's Cardinal Stadium (42,000)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ■ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: **Bobby Petrino**, 4th year (29-8)

Career record: 29-8

Assistant coaches: Greg Nord (asst. head coach/TEs/RBs), Mike Cassity (co-def. coord./safeties), Paul Petrino (off. coord./WRs), Jeff Brohm (QBs), Reggie Johnson (LBs), Tom McMahon (OLBs, special teams), Mike Summers (off. line), Joe Whitt Jr. (CBs/recruiting coord.), Kevin Wolthausen (co-def. coord./def. line)

started the last two games last season after Brohm got hurt, threw for 216 yards, three touchdowns and three interceptions in the Gator Bowl loss to Virginia Tech.

Brohm, at 6-4 and 224 pounds, is a perfect fit for Petrino's pro-style offense. He'll need to find some new receivers to replace Montrell Jones and Joshua Tinck, which shouldn't be a problem. Sophomore Mario Urrutia figures to play a more prominent role, having averaged 21.5 yards per catch in 2005, the most by any wide receiver in the country with at least 35 receptions. He's coming off a five-catch, 143-yard performance in the spring game.

With the Cards often employing three- and four-receiver sets, Urrutia again should have reliable running mates. Harry Douglas averaged 16.9 yards per game last season, and had a great spring, but is the only other returning wide receiver with more than 10 catches. Georgia Tech transfer Patrick Carter, who sat out last season, impressed coaches in the spring by working out at wide receiver, quarterback and returning punts. Then there's Chris Vaughn, a physical, 6-4 receiver who transferred from Notre Dame and sat out 2005. Redshirt sophomore Elijah Daniel is also in the mix.

For a high-powered offense, Louisville doesn't throw to tight ends much. Junior Gary Barnidge (17 catches, 240 yards) returns as the starter there. At 6-6 and 236 pounds, he's emerged as a good blocker.

Center Eric Wood and massive guard Kurt Quartermann (6-5, 336) return from one of the nation's better offensive lines, which must find replacements at the other three positions. Senior Renardo Foster should fill the right-tackle role, while Marcel Benson, a former Junior College All-American, and 6-7 junior Breno Giacomini are in the mix at left tackle.

With Dumervil anchoring the D-line last season, the Cardinals held their own up front, but often surrendered big plays. The opposite could be true this season, with a depleted front four and more experience among the linebackers and secondary.

The defensive line, which helped the Cards rank 21st in the nation in rush defense in 2005, must replace three starters, including Dumervil and Montavious Stanley. Senior Amobi Okoye, just 19, is the veteran of the unit and figures to be among the youngest NFL draftees, regardless of which juniors come out. Senior Zach Anderson, another ex-jucos, should fill one position.



Middle linebacker Nate Harris is the team's leading returning tackler. He was second to Dumervil last season with 11.5 tackles for loss, including seven sacks. Speedy junior Preston Smith and senior Abe Brown figure to battle for weakside position, while junior Malik Jackson is the favorite for the strongside post. Brown has recorded more than 50 tackles in each of the last two seasons, despite missing three games last year. Lamar Miles, a sophomore, was projected as a backup, but after a monster spring, he could nail down a starting role in August.

The secondary was a major concern a year ago, with three new starters. It's now one of the team's

strengths. Senior corner William Gay is Louisville's best cover man. It speaks volumes about Gay that he hasn't had an interception the past two years but is still regarded as one of the best in the league at his position. Rod Council was second on the team with 40 solo tackles last year as a redshirt freshman. Senior Brandon Sharp returns as a starting free safety, while Jonathan Russell, a sophomore, will take over at strong safety.

The Cardinals have the league's most reliable kicker in junior Art Carmody, a first team all-conference choice in 2005. With the departure Montrell Jones, seniors Douglas and Sergio Spencer are the front-runners to take over kickoff-return duties.

## NEXT BIG THING

### PATRICK CARTER, junior wide receiver

The state of Georgia may be "Carter Country" in political terms, but not in football matters.

Speedy wideout Patrick Carter had a frustrating two years at Georgia Tech. Among other things, he suffered a bout with mono, injured his knee and was bounced around from quarterback to punt returner. He now hopes to find a happier home in Bobby Petrino's high-powered Louisville offense.

"I love the offense here," says Carter, who will be a junior wide receiver for the Cardinals this season. "I feel like it can't be stopped."

Petrino is hoping Carter proves equally dominant. During spring practice, Louisville moved Carter around the field, looking at him primarily as a receiver, but also at quarterback, defensive back and on special teams as a return man.

He played quarterback in high school and as a backup to Reggie Ball during his stint at Tech. Experts say Petrino, who is known for his

innovative offensive strategies, will make good use of Carter's many talents.

"Bobby Petrino designs offenses as well as anyone in the country," says Charles Davis, a TBS college football analyst. "Don't be surprised if you see Patrick Carter taking snaps under center, carrying the ball, lining up in the slot and doing a few other things. He has a lot of attributes that fit well into that system. He really looks promising."

Carter comes to Louisville with quite a pedigree. His brother, Tim, is a five-year NFL veteran as a wide receiver with the New York Giants. In addition, he has already run track at Louisville.

"That has really helped me a lot with my explosiveness," Carter says of his track experience. "Right now, I'm making up for my technique with my speed. Once I get my technique going, too, I should improve my game. That's what I am working toward."

—Erik Spanberg

## 2005 TEAM STATS

SCORING	521	285
Points Per Game	43.4	23.8
FIRST DOWNS	287	226
Rushing	123	85
Passing	142	115
Penalty	22	26
RUSHING YARDAGE	2262	1368
Yards gained rushing	2542	1895
Yards lost rushing	280	527
Rushing Attempts	472	460
Average Per Rush	4.8	3.0
Average Per Game	188.5	114.0
TDs Rushing	41	16
PASSING YARDAGE	3523	2520
Att-Cmp-Int	376-246-10	367-199-9
Average Per Pass	9.4	6.9
Average Per Catch	14.3	12.7
Average Per Game	293.6	210.0
TDs Passing	24	16
TOTAL OFFENSE	5785	3888
Total Plays	848	827
Average Per Play	6.8	4.7
Average Per Game	482.1	324.0
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	58-789	77-1676
PLNT RETURNS: #-YDS	39-394	15-153
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	9-88	10-165
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	20.8	21.8
PLNT RETURN AVERAGE	10.1	10.2
INT RETURN AVERAGE	9.8	16.5
FUMBLES-LOST	19-12	32-19
PENALTIES-YARDS	92-816	91-820
Average Per Game	68.0	68.3
PUNTS-YARDS	36-1399	68-2642
Average Per Punt	38.9	38.9
Net punt average	34.6	33.1
TIME OF POSSESS/GAME	28:56	31:02
3RD-DOWN CONV.	71/148	63/174
3rd-Down Pct.	48%	36%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/21	10/17
4th-Down Pct.	43%	59%
SACKS BY-YARDS	44-343	25-185
MC SC YARDS	99	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	69	35
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	14-16	12-15
PAT ATTEMPTS	63-65	31-31
ATTENDANCE	246007	225221
Games/Avg Per Game	6/1000	5/45004
Neutral Site Games	1/63780	

Louisville	109	156	132	104	20	521
Opponent	57	67	51	88	22	285

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

### OFFENSE

#### PASSING

Brian Brohm	GP	Effic.	Alt-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
10	166.73	301-207-5	68.8	2883	19	288.3	

#### Hunter Cantwell

Hunter Cantwell	GP	Effic.	Alt-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
8	138.71	73-39-4	53.4	640	5	80.0	

#### RUSHING

Michael Bush	GP	All	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
10	205	1143	5.6	23	114.3	

#### George Stripling

George Stripling	GP	All	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
12	79	621	7.9	7	51.8	

#### Kolby Smith

Kolby Smith	GP	All	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
10	107	523	4.9	6	52.3	

#### RECEIVING

Joshua Tinch	GP	All	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
12	67	855	12.8	4	71.2	

#### Montrell Jones

Montrell Jones	GP	All	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
12	43	574	13.3	5	47.8	

#### Mario Urrutia

Mario Urrutia	GP	All	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
11	37	797	21.5	7	72.5	

#### DEFENSE

##### TACKLES

Brandon Johnson	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
12	44	28	72	

##### Nate Harris

Nate Harris	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
12	37	29	65	

##### Elvis Dumervil

Elvis Dumervil	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
12	20.0	160		

##### Montavious Stanley

Montavious Stanley	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
11	5.5	44		

##### INTERCEPTIONS

Brandon Johnson	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
2	25	12.5	1	

##### Jon Russell

Jon Russell	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
2	32	16.0	0	

##### Antoine Sharp

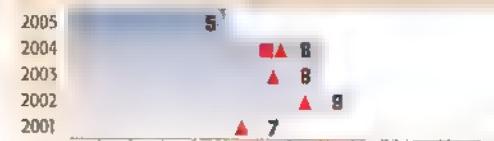
Antoine Sharp	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
1	0	0.0	0.0	0

# PITTSBURGH



# PANTHERS

Stadium: Heinz Field (65,000)

**5-YEAR WINS TREND**

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL    ★ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Dave Wannstedt, 2nd year (5-6)

Career record: 5-6

Assistant coaches: Bob Junko (ass. head coach/def./recruiting coord.), Matt Cavanaugh (off. coord./QBs), Paul Rhoads (def. coord./secondary), Charlie Partridge (special teams coord./def. ends), Curtis Bray (LBs), Paul Dunn (off. line), Greg Gattuso (def. line), Aubrey Hill (WRs), David Walker (RBs)

**PRESEASON RANK.**  
**#3**
**POWER RATINGS**

OFFENSE	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
DEFENSE	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
SPECIAL TEAMS	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
COACHING	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>

**2005 Record:** **5-6** | **Big East:** **4-3**
**2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Virginia	
S.8	@CINCINNATI	38-20
S.16	Michigan State	
S.23	Citadel	
S.30	Toledo	
O.7	@SYRACUSE	34-17
O.13	@UCF	
<b>O.21</b>	<b>RUTGERS</b>	<b>29-37</b>
N.4	@SOUTH FLORIDA	31-17
N.11	@CONNECTICUT	24-0
N.16	West Virginia	13-45
N.25	Louisville	20-42

**\* GAME TO WATCH \***

With a soft early schedule, the Panthers could be 7-0 as they face their first test.

**PROJECTED STARTERS**

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 46/23

**OFFENSE**

QB	3	Tyler Palko (6-2, 220, r-Sr.)
FB	31	Conredge Collins (5-11, 225, So.)
TB	34	Laford Stephens-Howling (5-7, 165, So.)
LT	62	John Bachman (6-4, 260, So.)
LG	57	C.J. Davis (6-2, 290, So.)
C	68	Joe Villano (6-3, 300, r-Sr.)
MI	60	John Simonitis (6-4, 325, r-Sr.)
RT	75	Mike McGlynn (6-5, 325, r-Jr.)
TE	84	Steve Buches (6-4, 250, r-Sr.)
SE	4	Joe DelSardo (5-8, 195, Sr.)
FL	81	Derek Kinder (6-1, 200, Jr.)

**DEFENSE**

DE	54	Charles Sallet (6-0, 235, r-Sr.)
DT	47	Nick Williams (6-2, 275, r-So.)
DT	98	Vernon Botts (6-4, 260, r-Sr.)
DE	41	Chris McKillop (6-3, 245, r-Jr.)
SLB	17	Clint Session (6-0, 235, Sr.)
MLB	51	H.B. Blades (6-0, 245, Sr.)
WLB	44	Brian Bennett (6-0, 235, r-Sr.)
LCB	25	Darrelle Revis (6-0, 190, Jr.)
RCB	5	Kennard Cox (6-1, 195, r-Jr.)
FS	10	Mike Phillips (5-11, 195, r-Jr.)
SS	46	Sam Bryant (6-0, 230, r-Sr.)

**SPECIALISTS**

PK	16	David Abdul (5-10, 200, r-Sr.)
P	18	Adam Graesel (6-4, 225, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Quarterback Tyler Palko is coming off a junior season in which he passed for 2,392 yards and 17 touchdowns. He'll miss all-conference wide receiver Greg Lee, who left early for the NFL, and promising running back Rashad Jennings, who transferred to Liberty.

Palko sputtered at times last season adjusting to Offensive Coordinator Matt Cavanaugh's new offense, but found his rhythm late in the year and is motivated by the team's poor showing in 2005. His leading returning receiver is junior Derek Kinder (37 catches, 374 yards).

Much of Pitt's talent rests on the defensive side of the ball, with rising-star cornerback Darrelle Revis, senior safety Sam Bryant and junior safeties Mike Phillips and Jemeel Brady returning. They'll make the departures of cornerback Josh Lay and free safety Tez Morris much easier to bear. Revis picked off four passes as a sophomore and led the Big East in punt-return yards.

H.B. Blades, son of ex-NFL player Bennie Blades, is back for a senior year, as is fellow linebacker Clint Session. Linebacker Brian Bennett is expected to be recovered for preseason drills after missing spring practice recovering from a fractured ankle.

Blades is the anchor of the Pitt defense, leading the conference last season with 121 tackles. With a maturing supporting cast around him, he should boost his NFL Draft stock significantly this year.

The Panthers will have to retool their defensive line, having lost both tackles to graduation. The defensive ends, however, return in senior Charles Sallet and junior Chris McKillop.

Recruiting experts touted Pitt's incoming class as the best in the Big East and among the tops in the nation. Nate Byham was rated one of the top tight ends in the country. With the Panthers thin at the position, he could play right away. So too could tailback Kevin Collier, who should benefit from the team's lack of depth in the backfield.

Other players unlikely to wear redshirts include defensive linemen Jason Pinkston and cornerback Jovani Chappel, who enrolled in classes during the spring.

David Abdul, a starter as a true freshman in 2002, will get the first shot at placekicking after redshirting in 2004 following a car accident and serving as backup last year.

## BIG EAST

### Highly rated recruiting class could make the difference for Wannstedt in his second season with Panthers

**W**hen Pittsburgh hosts Virginia to open the season, Coach Dave Wannstedt will have more than a few notes to compare with Al Groh.

Groh left the NFL after the 2000 season to return to his alma mater, where he endured a 5-7 campaign in 2001. The following year he put a heralded recruiting class to work immediately and a group of true freshmen helped the team to a surprising 9-5 season.

Wannstedt, who left the NFL after the 2004 season to return to his alma mater, endured a 5-6 season last year. After signing one of the nation's top recruiting classes, he'll likely put several true freshmen to work this season. And it would not be surprising if the Panthers enjoyed the same type of turnaround the Cavaliers did in 2002.

The tougher part of Pitt's schedule is at home, where it will face West Virginia, Louisville and Rutgers. Even the more high-profile non-conference opponents—Virginia and Michigan State—are rebuilding and must come to Heinz Field.

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- 1** **Darin Dickerson, WR, 6-2, 200**  
Back-yard recruit could also play defense.
- 2** **Nate Byham, TE, 6-3, 215**  
Emerged last season as top prospect.
- 3** **Elijah Fields, WR, 6-2, 210**  
Panthers keep top back-yard talent home.
- 4** **Nate Nix, LB, 6-3, 210**  
Top defender with future promise.
- 5** **Ricky Gary, DB, 5-9, 175**  
Floundered overlooked by in-state powers.

## RUTGERS



## SCARLET KNIGHTS

Stadium: Rutgers Stadium (41,500)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	5
2003	5
2002	1
2001	2

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL \* NATIONAL TITLE

## Outcome of tough early schedule will determine if Scarlet Knights can keep momentum of '05 bowl season going

James Galdolfini, Rutgers Class of 1983, was among those in attendance last season at the Insight Bowl, and as honorary captain before the game he shot a few intimidating glares at Arizona State players.

The Scarlet Knights came up short against the Sun Devils, but by posting their first winning season since 1992 and appearing in their first bowl game since 1978, they demonstrated the type of muscle and presence that even Tony Soprano could appreciate.

Rutgers was one of college football's most unlikely stories last season and has depth and youth to build upon in 2006. Coach Greg Schiano received a seven-year contract in December, and it's not just Rutgers officials who believe his program has staying power.

It won't be easy. Rutgers must face West Virginia, Pittsburgh and South Florida on the road. The Scarlet Knights also open the year at North Carolina. Still, there's talk of contention for a conference title, which speaks volumes of how far the program has come.

Few teams possess as potent a backfield as the Knights, who employ tailback Ray Rice and fullback Brian Leonard. Rice rushed for 1,120 yards as a true freshman and Leonard bypassed the NFL Draft to return for his senior year. The future looks bright with speedy recruit Kordell Young, who reneged on a verbal commitment to Virginia when several Cavalier assistants departed.

Rutgers will begin the season with a new quarterback. Mike Teel, a sophomore, is a traditional drop-back type and the front runner to succeed Ryan Hart. Redshirt freshman Jabu Lovelace is more of a scrambler, but has a cannon of an arm, and could push for playing time. Don't be surprised if Schiano uses Lovelace as a change-of-pace quarterback in special packages.

Either quarterback will look frequently to Clark Harris, a two-time All-Big East tight end who caught 38 passes for 584 yards and four touchdowns in 2005. Gone is all-conference guard John Glass, but starting linemen Pedro Sosa and Jeremy Zuttah anchor an otherwise experienced offensive front.

Defense is a more pressing concern for Rutgers, which gave up 190 points in its final four games last year. Replacements are needed for All-Big East performer Ryan Neill and fellow defensive end Val Barnaby, who combined for 20 sacks last season.

## PRESEASON RANK:

#4

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE					
DEFENSE					
SPECIAL TEAMS					
COACHING					

2005 Record:

**7-5**

Big East:

**4-3**

(lost to Arizona State in the Insight Bowl, 45-40)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE		TIME	OPPONENT
9/2	@NORTH CAROLINA		
S.9	Illinois	30-33 (OT)	
S.16	Ohio		
S.23	Howard		
S.29	@SOUTH FLORIDA	31-45	
Q.4	@NAVY	31-21	
O.21	@PITTSBURGH	37-29	
O.28	Connecticut	26-24	
N.9	Louisville	5-56	
N.16	@CINCINNATI	44-9	
N.23	Syracuse	31-9	
O.2	@WEST VIRGINIA	14-27	

## GAME TO WATCH

Season opener against fellow upstart UNC could set the tone for whether the Scarlet Knights will build upon their 2005 success.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/18

OFFENSE	
QB	14 Mike Teel (6-4, 220, So.)
FB	23 Brian Leonard (6-2, 235, Sr.)
RB	27 Ray Rice (5-9, 195, So.)
OT	77 Pedro Sosa (6-5, 300, Jr.)
OG	72 Mike Fladell (6-8, 318, Jr.)
C	53 Damrell Stapleton (6-3, 305, Sr.)
OG	63 Cameron Stephenson (6-5, 305, Sr.)
OT	71 Jeremy Zuttah (6-4, 290, Sr.)
TE	81 Clark Harris (6-6, 255, Sr.)
WR	84 Willie Foster (5-10, 170, Sr.)
WR	4 Shawn Tucker (6-2, 200, Jr.)

DEFENSE	
DE	90 Jamaal Westerman (6-3, 252, So.)
OT	56 Eric Foster (6-2, 260, Jr.)
DT	60 Ramel Meekins (6-0, 280, Sr.)
DE	35 William Beckford (6-1, 222, Sr.)
LB	52 Chenry Lewis (6-3, 235, So.)
LB	55 Devraun Thompson (5-11, 220, Sr.)
LB	50 Quintero Frierson (6-1, 235, Sr.)
CB	24 Joe Porter (6-0, 200, Sr.)
CB	11 Derrick Roberson (5-10, 175, Sr.)
S	43 Ron Girault (5-11, 195, Jr.)
S	36 Courtney Greene (6-1, 180, So.)

SPECIALISTS	
PK	1 Jeremy Ito (5-11, 180, Jr.)
P	30 Joe Radigan (6-5, 220, Sr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American



Defensive tackle Ramel Meekins (9 sacks) is the only returning starter on the D-line.

The linebacking corps is more experienced, with senior Devraun Thompson (97 tackles) and returning starters Chenry Lewis and Quintero Frierson. So is the secondary, which features junior Ron Girault and sophomore Courtney Greene at safety. Greene was a freshman All-American last season. Derrick Roberson, a senior, is a returning starter at one corner position. Seniors Joe Porter and Manny Collins are the top contenders for the other corner slot.

Jeremy Ito is one of the league's more reliable kickers. Willie Foster, the Big East Special Teams Player of the Year, is back for his senior season after returning 30 kickoffs for 736 yards (24.5 average) in 2005.

**Head coach: Greg Schiano, 6th year (19-39)**

**Career record: 19-39**

**Assistant coaches:** Chris Demarest (secondary), Kyle Flood (off. line), Phil Galiano (def. ends), Cary Godette (def. line), Robert Jackson (RBs), John McNulty (asst. off. coord./QBs/WRs), Darren Rizzi (asst. head coach/LBs/special teams), Joe Susan (recruiting coord./TEs), Craig Ver Steeg (off. coord.).

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 Kenny Bell, WR, 6-4, 205**  
Big target from home-state prep program.

**2 Ryan D'Imperio, LB, 6-2, 230**  
Solid defender who should contribute.

**3 Mo Lange, OL, 6-7, 351**  
Massive blocker who anchors line.

**4 Kordell Young, RB, 5-9, 185**  
Home state product could be tested at other skill positions.

**5 Andres Morales, LB, 6-2, 260**  
Pennsylvania all-state is a top-notch defensive prospect.



TAMPA

## SOUTH FLORIDA BULLS

**2005 Record:** 6-6 overall, 4-3 Big East  
(lost to N.C. State in the Meineke Car Care Bowl, 14-0)

PRESEASON RANK.

#5

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

	▲ BOWL
2005	▲
2004	4
2003	7
2002	9
2001	8

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Jim Leavitt, 10th year  
(61-39)

**Career record:** 61-39

**Stadium:** Raymond James Stadium

**Capacity:** 65,000

**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.gobulls.usf.edu](http://www.gobulls.usf.edu)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2005 RESULT
S.2	McNeese State	
S.9	Florida International	
S.16	@UCF	31-14
S.23	@KANSAS	
S.29	Rutgers	45-31
O.7	Connecticut	10-15
O.14	@NORTH CAROLINA	
O.21	@CINCINNATI	31-16
N.4	Pittsburgh	17-31
N.11	Syracuse	27-0
N.18	@LOUISVILLE	45-14
N.25	WEST V. RGINA	1-2H

## GAME TO WATCH \*

The Bulls will face a hostile crowd and a motivated team after embarrassing the Cardinals last year in Tampa.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Juniors returning/lost: 47/20

DETAILED	QB	RB	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	TE	WR	WR
LE	90	Jamrett Buij (6-4, 240, Jr.)								
NT	76	Richard Clebert (6-1, 295, Jr.)								
DT	46	Tavarous Robinson (6-4, 265, Sr.)								
RE	91	Josh Julmiste (6-6, 265, So.)								
SLB	51	Stephen Nicholas (6-3, 225, Sr.)								
MLB	59	Ben Moffitt (6-2, 235, Jr.)								
WLB	53	Pat St. Louis (6-1, 230, Sr.)								
LCB	21	Irae Williams (5-10, 185, Jr.)								
RCB	4	Mike Jenkins (6-0, 200, Jr.)								
FS	17	Danny Verpaeel (5-11, 200, So.)								
SS	7	Louis Gachette (6-3, 205, Fr.)								

SPECIALISTS	PK	K	P
	28	Mike Benzer (5-8, 185, So.)	
	31	William Cnswell (5-9, 160, So.)	

South Florida continued its quick rise in 2005, just its ninth season of football. The Bulls finished 4-3 in their first season in the Big East, shocked Louisville and made the school's first bowl appearance.

Coach Jim Leavitt, the only coach the Bulls have ever had and who is signed through 2012, believes the job is one of the best in the country. In a few years, he may be right. No longer does the team operate out of a flotilla of trailers but in a sparkling, big-time football facility. And Leavitt's staff is starting to lure the type of area prep talent that previously would have accepted the first offer from Gainesville or Tallahassee.

But as the Bulls enter their 10th season of NCAA football, Leavitt must find a way to improve an offense that ranked 79th in the nation last season. The unit looked promising at times, especially in pounding Louisville 45-14, but lost 15-10 at Connecticut and failed to score against North Carolina State in the Meineke Car Care Bowl.

Leavitt used three quarterbacks in 2005 and did not seem enamored with any of them. Pat Julmiste and Carlton Hill will battle it out in August, with the more athletic Hill the favorite. Another of last year's quarterbacks, Courtney Denson, was moved to wide receiver.

The Bulls must replace Andre Hall, who holds most every USF rushing record. Redshirt freshman Moise Plancher and sophomore Ricky Ponton are the most promising options.

USF returns seven starters on offense and seven on defense. Including the conference's best linebacking unit. Ben Moffitt, Patrick St. Louis and Stephen Nicholas combined for 264 tackles and 12.5 sacks in 2005. Other key veterans include senior offensive tackle Thed Watson and junior cornerback Mike Jenkins, both of whom joined Nicholas on the All-Big East second team.

Wide receiver Amarri Jackson enjoyed a breakout, two-touchdown game against Louisville and has all the tools to develop into a big-time playmaker in 2006.

The Bulls will have time to address their offense during a softer early-season schedule before closing out the year with games at Louisville and West Virginia.



PRESEASON RANK:

#6

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

	▲ BOWL
2005	5
2004	▲
2003	9
2002	6
2001	2

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Randy Edsall, 8th year  
(37-43)

**Career record:** 37-43

**Stadium:** Rentschler Field

**Capacity:** 40,000

**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.uconnhuskies.com](http://www.uconnhuskies.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2005 RESULT
A.31	Rhode Island	
S.16	Wake Forest	
S.23	@INDIANA	
S.30	Navy	
O.7	@SOUTH FLORIDA	15-10
O.14	Army	47-13
O.28	WEST VIRGINIA	13-45
O.28	@RUTGERS	24-26
N.11	Pittsburgh	0-24
N.18	@SYRACUSE	26-7
N.25	Cincinnati	17-28
D.2	@LOUISVILLE	20-30

## GAME TO WATCH \*

This ESPN Friday night homecoming game will show if the Huskies have bounced back from 2005.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18  
Juniors returning/lost: 41/17

DETAILED	QB	RB	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	TE	WR	WR
DE	50	Cody Brown (6-3, 235, So.)								
DT	53	Ray Blagman (6-3, 319, Sr.)								
DT	93	Rhema Fuller (6-2, 266, Sr.)								
DE	6	Dan Davis (6-1, 264, Jr.)								
SLB	14	Justin DeRobertis (5-11, 216, Jr.)								
MLB	43	Ryan Henegan (6-1, 241, Jr.)								
WLB	48	Danny Lansanah (6-1, 248, Jr.)								
CB	28	Darius Butler (5-11, 181, So.)								
CB	29	Tyron Branch (6-0, 192, Jr.)								
FS	10	Marvin Taylor (6-0, 191, Jr.)								
SS	35	M.J. Estep (6-1, 212, Sr.)								

DETAILED	DE	DT	DT	DE	SLB	MLB	WLB	CB	CB	FS	SS	PK	P
	50	53	93	6	14	43	48	28	29	10	35	98	6

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

## CONNECTICUT HUSKIES

**2005 Record:** 5-6 overall, 2-5 Big East

Much was expected of the Huskies after an 8-4 season in 2004 that saw the team emerge as a legitimate Big East contender. There was little hope of a repeat last year, what with 18 players from the two-deep preseason depth chart lost to injury during the campaign.

Coach Randy Edsall, who has overseen a smooth transition from Division I-AA to I-A and a move to the Big East in 2004, remains upbeat—as well he should. The Huskies have the talent and depth to rebound from last season's 5-6 mark. A solid recruiting class and favorable home schedule will help.

The team lost standout linebacker Taurien Sowell to graduation and running back Cornel Brockington, who declared early for the NFL Draft. But there's plenty of talent left.

Running back Terry Caulley, who split time with Brockington last fall, should benefit from the early exit and improve his effort from last year, when he rushed for 659 yards.

The Huskies have perhaps the most intriguing quarterback battle in the conference. Matt Bonislawski is back after missing four games because of a broken collarbone last year. His injury gave a two-game audition to D.J. Hernandez, who looked promising. Dennis Brown also made two starts in 2005. Then there's redshirt freshman Billy Cundiff, a heralded recruit Edsall calls the best pure passer on the team.

Dan Murray returns for his fourth season as the starting tight end, where he caught 23 passes and improved his blocking en route to All-Big East second-team honors in 2005.

Connecticut had one of the conference's better defenses last season. Punishing linebacker Danny Lansanah, who led the team with 79 tackles, returns, as does defensive tackle Rhema Fuller, a second team all-conference selection. Cornerback Darius Butler, who intercepted a team-high four passes, is emerging as a star.

The Huskies' most promising newcomer is cornerback James Nixon, brother of UConn wide receiver Brandon McLean. Nixon chose UConn over Penn State, Nebraska and Tennessee and should see time as a true freshman.

CINCINNATI

# CINCINNATI BEARCATS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-5 Big East



It's not that Coach Mark Dantonio doesn't have some talent on his Cincinnati roster. It's just when you coach at a basketball school in an area overshadowed by Ohio State—to say nothing of pro sports franchises—it's hard to establish a vast following.

The Bearcats had by far the lowest average attendance (22,423) in the Big East last season. Nippert Stadium doesn't figure to be any more crowded this season, barring an unlikely turnaround against a brutal schedule.

Cincinnati faces seven opponents that appeared in bowl games last season and four teams that finished ranked among the top 20, including road games against non-conference foes Ohio State and Virginia Tech.

Whether the Bearcats are competitive depends in part on the development of redshirt-sophomore quarterback Dustin Grutza, who was fourth in the Big East in total offense last season (165 yards per game) but was inconsistent, throwing 11 touchdown passes and 11 interceptions.

Senior Nick Davila, a juco transfer who threw four touchdowns in garbage time last year, is ready should Grutza falter. Redshirt freshman Chris Carey, who helped Cincinnati's Elder High to back-to-back state titles, is also in the mix.

Running back Bradley Glatthaar will try to improve on a season that saw him lead the team with 620 yards rushing and seven touchdowns. Also back is tight end Brent Celek, the Bearcats leading returning receiver (32 catches).

Cincinnati returns the top six tacklers from a defense that ranked among the youngest in the country last fall. The group includes punishing safety Haruki Nakamura, who led the team in tackles (76), and linebacker Corey Smith, who is coming off of shoulder surgery.

The secondary returns all four starters, including cornerback Mike Mickens, who started 10 games last year and was named second-team All-Big East.



PRESEASON RANK:

#7

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
CONFERENCE TITLE	4	▲7	5	■▲7	▲7
NATIONAL TITLE					

\* CONFERENCE TITLE ■ BOWL

\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Mark Dantonio, 3rd year (11-12)

Career record: 11-12

Stadium: Nippert Stadium

Capacity: 35,000

Official athletic Web site:

[www.ucbearcats.com](http://www.ucbearcats.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Eastern Kentucky	
S.3	Pittsburgh	20-0
S.4	OHIO STATE	
S.23	@VIRGINIA TECH	
S.30	Miami (OH)	16-44
O.7	Akron	
O.14	@LOUISVILLE	22-46
O.21	South Florida	16-31
O.28	Syracuse	22-16
N.4	@WEST VIRGINIA	0-38
N.11	Rutgers	9-44
N.25	@CONNECTICUT	28-17

## GAME TO WATCH

If nothing else, the Bearcats can see where they stand against their formidable in-state foe, part of a brutal first month of the season.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17

Lettermen returning/lost: 44/13

## OFFENSE

QB	4	Dustin Grutza (6-2, 202, So.)
FB	86	Doug Jones (6-4, 282, Jr.)
TB	11	Bradley Glatthaar (5-11, 225, Jr.)
LT	73	Mano Duenas (6-3, 280, Jr.)
LG	78	Frank Straub (6-6, 210, Sr.)
C	57	Jeff Reinstaller (6-2, 287, Sr.)
RG	74	Ken Rodriguez (6-3, 305, Jr.)
RT	72	Digger Bujnoch (6-5, 290, Jr.)
TE	85	Brent Celek (6-4, 255, Sr.)
WR	84	Bil Poland (6-3, 205, Sr.)
WR	14	Earnest Jackson (6-3, 215, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	56	Trevor Anderson (6-2, 258, So.)
DT	54	Jon Newton (6-3, 290, Jr.)
DT	95	Terrell Byrd (6-1, 285, So.)
DE	12	Anthony Hoke (6-1, 245, Jr.)
LB	52	Kevir McCullough (6-2, 240, Sr.)
LB	42	Corey Smith (6-1, 215, So.)
LB	37	Anthony Williams (6-1, 200, Jr.)
CB	21	Mike Mickens (6-0, 165, So.)
CB	5	Antoine Horton (5-11, 190, Sr.)
FS	13	Haruki Nakamura (5-10, 185, Jr.)
SS	49	Dominic Ross (6-0, 200, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	15	Kevin Lovell (5-10, 155, Sr.)
P	47	Kevin Huber (6-1, 205, So.)

SYRACUSE, N.Y.

# SYRACUSE ORANGE

2005 Record: 1-10 overall, 0-7 Big East



PRESEASON RANK:

#8

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
CONFERENCE TITLE	■ B	■ B	■ B	■ B	■ B
NATIONAL TITLE					

Head coach: Greg Robinson,

2nd year (1-10)

Career record: 1-10

Stadium: Carrier Dome

Capacity: 49,262

Official athletic Web site:

[www.suathletics.com](http://www.suathletics.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@WAKE FOREST	
S.9	Iowa	
S.16	@ILLINOIS	
S.23	Miami (OH)	
S.30	Wyoming	
O.7	PITTSBURGH	17-34
O.14	@WEST VIRGINIA	7-15
O.21	Louisville	17-41
O.28	@CINCINNATI	16-22
N.4	@SOUTH FLORIDA	0-27
N.11	Connecticut	7-26
N.18	@RUTGERS	9-31

## GAME TO WATCH

The day before this first Big East game might be the last time Syracuse is undefeated in the conference.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 10

Lettermen returning/lost: 42/24

## OFFENSE

QB	10	Perry Patterson (6-4, 242, Sr.)
FB	48	Stephen McDonald (6-0, 240, Sr.)
TB	21	Kareem Jones (5-11, 221, So.)
OT	64	Corey Chavers (6-5, 295, So.)
OG	59	Carroll Madison (6-2, 316, Jr.)
C	60	Justin Outten (6-1, 274, Sr.)
RG	75	Ryan Durand (6-5, 312, So.)
RT	78	Eugene Newsome (6-7, 322, Jr.)
TE	84	Brandon Darlington (6-4, 260, Sr.)
WR	81	Tim Lane (6-2, 206, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

LE	99	Cornelius Campbell (6-4, 290, Jr.)
NT	56	Chris Thorner (6-4, 299, Sr.)
DT	51	Tony Jenkins (6-3, 285, Jr.)
RE	55	Lee Williams (6-3, 262, Jr.)
SLB	30	Vincenzo Grizzuti (6-3, 230, So.)
MLB	8	Kelvin Smith (6-2, 233, Sr.)
WL	19	Luke Cain (6-0, 225, Sr.)
LCB	28	Tanard Jackson (6-1, 193, Sr.)
RCB	27	Nick Chesnut (5-11, 182, So.)
FS	18	Reggie McCoy (6-0, 197, Jr.)
SS	26	Dowayne Davis (6-0, 200, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	6	John Barker (5-8, 148, So.)
P	47	Brendan Carney (6-5, 205, Sr.)

Like most of the conference Syracuse lost a pair of starting defensive ends (James Wyche and Ryan LaCasse). So thin is the position that linebackers Jameel McClain and Jamar Atkinson were moved to the spot during the spring and could remain there.

The Orange punted often last season and it was one of the team's few bright spots.

Brendan Carney, now a senior, is the reigning All-Big East punter.

# BIGTEN

Predicted order of finish



## RATING THE PLAYERS

<b>Fastest receiver</b>	Ted Ginn, WR, Ohio State
<b>Best hands</b>	Dorien Bryant, WR, Purdue
<b>Best passing QB</b>	Drew Stanton, Michigan State
<b>Best running QB</b>	Troy Smith, Ohio State

<b>Most elusive RB</b>	Javon Ringer, Michigan State
<b>Best instincts</b>	Paul Posluszny, LB, Penn State
<b>Best athlete</b>	Steve Breaston, WR/KR, Michigan
<b>Best under pressure</b>	Troy Smith, QB, Ohio State

<b>Top NFL prospect</b>	Joe Thomas, OT, Wisconsin
<b>Top impact freshman</b>	Nehemiah Warrick, SS, Michigan State
<b>Hardest hitter</b>	LaMarr Woodley, LB, Michigan
<b>Biggest underachiever</b>	Kyle Ingraham, WR, Purdue

## Tressel could have biggest impact in league of heavy-hitting coaches

By JACK EBLING Street &amp; Smith's correspondent

Most of the big names in Big Ten football are back. And they don't wear helmets.

Penn State's Joe Paterno, Ohio State's Jim Tressel, Michigan State's John L. Smith, Minnesota's Glen Mason, Purdue's Joe Tiller, Michigan's Lloyd Carr and Northwestern's Randy Walker are seven of the top-26 active college coaches in career wins.

Barry Alvarez was in there, too, until his retirement from coaching after last season. But as Wisconsin's full-time director of athletics, his coaching victories aren't transferable to handpicked successor Bret Bielema.

Bielema was the defensive coordinator when Barry's Badgers beat Auburn in the Capital One Bowl, one of three Big Ten triumphs in the first three days of 2006.

The biggest boasts in January came when the Buckeyes blasted Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl and the Nittany Lions outlasted Florida State in the Orange Bowl, the league's third 2-0 showing in BCS games.

Led by Ohio State's 4-0 mark, the Big Ten leads all conferences with eight BCS wins in 13 appearances since the current system began in January 1999.

Not bad for a "basketball league."

To get two more BCS bids and a berth in the 2007 national title game, the Big Ten might need Tressel's troops to be as good

as they were four years ago when the Buckeyes stunned Miami in two overtimes.

Michigan has more than enough talent and experience to beat any team on its schedule. But after a rare five-loss effort, the Wolverines will need to play better to protect their leads and reputation.

Defending conference champ Penn State was third in both final polls last season, one spot ahead of Ohio State. Paterno can still call on linebacker Paul Posluszny, the reigning Bednarik and Butkus Award winner, for leadership.

Iowa, a disappointment last season, and Wisconsin, a pleasant surprise, should form the rest of the first division. The Hawkeyes could be terrific on offense. The Badgers might have the league's top defense.

With a prolific attack, Michigan State can shock a few teams. But the defense and special teams must improve for the Spartans to pass Northwestern and Minnesota, bowl teams they lost to by a total of 58 points last fall.

The Wildcats and Golden Gophers should have enough to hold off Purdue. Indiana and Illinois are at least a year away, though both programs have building permits.

Though only six first-team All-Big Ten picks return and 41 players were drafted into the NFL, it's nice to know that coaches who can develop All-Americans are still on campus.



Will any team stop Ohio State's Troy Smith and Ted Ginn? The Buckeyes might if they don't take full advantage of their two best players. Otherwise, no team on the schedule should hold them to less than 24 points.

Can Michigan finish with fewer than three defeats? The talent is there to do better than that after a 7-5 pratfall. But three tough road challenges could mean three or more losses for the 12th time in 14 years.

Is Penn State poised to repeat as Big Ten champ? Linebacking stud Paul Posluszny and last season's explosive freshmen should keep the Nittany Lions in the hunt. But they won't rule without quarterback Michael Robinson.

Could Iowa or Wisconsin be a surprise champion? The Hawkeyes have a great combination on offense. In Drew Tate and Albert Young, Wisconsin might have the league's best defense. But they'll both have to settle for a first-division finish.

Which second-division teams will be better this season? Michigan State could have the Big Ten's second-best defense. Indiana and Illinois should be much improved, too, though it might not show in the standings.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP

**PENN STATE:** Same ol' Paterno? Lions land second straight big haul.

**OHIO STATE:** Bucks recruit speed at running back and linebacker.

**MICHIGAN:** Winged helmets still an attraction after down year.

**MICHIGAN STATE:** JC transfers should start on defense immediately.

**ILLINOIS:** Zook's staff starting to rake in its share of in-state recruits.

**IOWA:** Ferentz doesn't need five-star recruits to win big.

**WISCONSIN:** Bielema will do a terrific job when kids get to know him.

**PURDUE:** Mid-year JC transfers will fill holes right away.

**MINNESOTA:** The Gophers get better results than recruiting-class rankings.

**NORTHWESTERN:** Good job of finding sleepers who'll keep foes awake.

**INDIANA:** Terry Hoeppner's program is taking the right baby steps.

QB	Troy Smith, Sr., Ohio State
WR	James Hardy, So., Indiana
WR	Ted Ginn, Jr., Ohio State
RB	Tyrell Sutton, So., Northwestern
RB	Albert Young, Jr., Iowa
TE	Matt Spaeth, Sr., Minnesota
OL	Joe Thomas, Sr., Wisconsin
OL	Levi Brown, Sr., Penn State
OL	Jake Long, Jr., Michigan
OL	Jordan Crimmins, Jr., Purdue
OL	Mike Elgin, Sr., Iowa
PK	Kyle Schreiber, Sr., Iowa

### DEFENSE

DL	Ken Iweabena, Jr., Iowa
DL	Quinn Pitcock, Sr., Ohio State
DL	Jay Alford, Sr., Penn State
LB	LaMarr Woodley, Sr., Michigan
LB	Paul Posluszny, Sr., Penn State
LB	Mark Zaawski, Sr., Wisconsin
LB	David Harris, Sr., Michigan
DB	Leon Hall, Sr., Michigan
DB	Joe Stellmacher, Sr., Wisconsin
DB	Marquise Cole, Sr., Northwestern
DB	Rodenick Rogers, Sr., Wisconsin
P	Ken DeBauche, Jr., Wisconsin

# Why Kelso Sturgeon Laughs His Way To The Bank

And Why He GUARANTEES You Will Do The Same!

## Who Is Kelso Sturgeon...

- Author "The Complete Guide To Sports Betting" Harper & Row)
- Authored over 1,000 articles on handicapping seen in College & Pro Football Newsweekly, Sportsform.
- Seen on TV's Pro Line (USA Cable Network)
- Profiled in Wall Street Journal, NY Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post and Paybox
- Creator of the famous "World Series of Handicapping"
- Only sports handicapper to ever address the United States Congress on the subject of sports handicapping.

## BIG GAME WINNERS FROM '05

S 1 Conn (-18) Buffalo	38-0	W 10
Vbilt (+8) Wake For	24-20	W 3
Oreg (-7 1/2) Houston	38-24	W 2

S17 College Blowout Game of Year	Missouri (-19 1/2) Troy	52-21	W 26
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S24 College Game of Year	Ariz St (-6 1/2) Oreg St	42-24	W 100
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O 2 NFL Parlay of Year	Colts (-7) Titans	31-10	W 10
Raiders (-3 1/2) Cowboys	19-13	W 10	
Parlay of Colts & Raiders	W 10		

O 9 NFL Game of the Year	Browns (-3) Bears	20-10	W 50
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O13 Thursday Night Game of Month	Clemson +4 NC State	31-10	W 15
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O23 College Upset Game of Month	Auburn +6 1/2 LSJ	17-20	W 25
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O30 NFL Side and Total Parlay of Month	Panthers , 7 Vikings	38-14	W 10
Over 46		W 3	
Parlay of side & total		W 2	

When I read that Dow Jones or Standard & Poors earned 16% and brag about it, I have to laugh I do that in one weekend Based on hypothetical \$100 bets, if my football picks go 6 out of ten, I collect \$600 I pay out \$440 I keep \$160 profit on an investment of \$1 000 That's my 16% profit Next week – with more bucks to bet – I make even more By the end of the season I have made 100% - 200% or more In fact, members of my Chairman's Club who followed my betting guidelines over the last four seasons have pocketed over \$400,000 in net cash earnings Hundreds of my small-to-moderate players have seen their football earnings rise proportionately So if you want to multiply your money I can give you the rate of climb you want Football is my turf As a former scout in the SEC working under the guidance of 'Bama's legendary coach Bear Bryant and Kansas City's Chiefs', Hank Stram, I learned what makes a winning program – and my early training has never stopped paying off Now I'm inviting YOU to cash in on it!

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NEW My August College Of The Year



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COLUMBUS

# OHIO STATE



## Led by efficient, poised quarterback Troy Smith, offense could carry Tressel to second NCAA championship

**J**im Tressel isn't a god in Columbus. He's much more than that in the eyes of most Buckeyes. He's the second coming of Woody Hayes, minus the bombast.

After five seasons on the banks of the Olentangy, Tressel has proven that a head coach can win in a sweater vest, not just a white, short-sleeved shirt. He has beaten Michigan four times and won a national title, to list his accomplishments in order of importance.

After winning 135 games and four Division I-A crowns in 15 years at Youngstown State, Tressel has been even better at Ohio State, averaging 10 wins a season and reaching 50 victories faster than some Buckeyes can spell "W-o-l-v-e-r-i-n-e-s."

Last year's team staged a furious rally in Ann Arbor and shared the league championship at 7-1. After dominating Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl, Ohio State finished 10-2 and was fourth in the polls, one spot behind conference co-champ Penn State.

Talk of a No. 1 ranking this season is tempered by the loss of five first-round draft picks, second only to Miami's six in 2004. Overall, the Buckeyes had nine players selected, behind only Southern California's 11.

Still, Ohio State's offense should be as good as any in the country. Eight starters return, including senior quarterback Troy Smith, junior flanker and kick returner Ted Ginn, junior tailback Antonio Pittman and the right side of a strong line.

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- 1 **Chris Wells, RB, 6-1, 225**  
*Top RB prospect could play early.*
- 2 **Connor Smith, OL, 6-5, 295**  
*Top run blocker fits OSU offense to a tee.*
- 3 **Robert Rose, DE, 6-5, 260**  
*Another top prospect from Cleveland Glenville.*
- 4 **Ross Homan, LB, 6-1, 237**  
*Is he the next A.J. Hawk for Buckeyes?*
- 5 **Larry Grant, LB, 6-3, 225**  
*Juco Player of the Year could help with depleted LB positions.*



PRESEASON RANK:

# 1

### POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
DEFENSE	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
SPECIAL TEAMS	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
COACHING	■ ■ ■ ■ ■

2005 Record:

10-2

Big Ten:

7-1

(beat Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl, 34-20)

### 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
5.2	Northern Illinois	
5.9	@TEXAS	22-25
5.16	Cincinnati	
5.23	Penn State	10-17
5.30	@IOWA	31-6
6.7	Bowling Green	
6.14	@MICHIGAN STATE	35-24
6.21	Indiana	41-10
6.28	Minnesota	45-31
7.4	@ILLINOIS	40-2
7.11	@NORTHWESTERN	48-7
7.18	Michigan	25-21

### \* GAME TO WATCH \*

The Buckeyes want revenge after last year's result. Title talk could be quickly squashed with an early-season loss.

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11  
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/17

QB	10	Chris Wells (6-1, 225, Jr.)
FB	89	Stan White (6-3, 242, Sr.)
TB	25	Antonio Pittman (5-11, 195, Jr.)
LT	75	Alex Boone (6-8, 315, So.)
LG	71	Steve Rehring (6-8, 329, R-So.)
C	50	Doug Datush (6-5, 295, Sr.)
RG	72	T.J. Downing (6-5, 305, Sr.)
RT	74	Kirk Barton (6-7, 325, Jr.)
TE	88	Rory Nicol (6-5, 260, So.)
FL	7	Ted Ginn (6-0, 175, Jr.)
SE	11	Anthony Gonzalez (6-0, 195, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	87	Lawrence Wilson (6-6, 225, So.)
DT	97	David Patterson (6-3, 285, Sr.)
DT	90	Quinn Pitcock (6-5, 295, Sr.)
DE	99	Jay Richardson (6-6, 276, Sr.)
SLB	33	James Launnards (6-3, 231, So.)
MLB	52	John Kerr (6-1, 246, Sr.)
WLB	1	Marcus Freeman (6-2, 230, Jr.)
LCB	2	Malcolm Jenkins (6-1, 180, So.)
RCB	14	Antonio Smith (5-9, 195, Sr.)
FS	35	Nick Patterson (6-2, 210, So.)
SS	3	Jamano O'Neal (6-0, 180, So.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	89	Ryan Pretorius (5-10, 190, So.)
P	15	A.J. Trapasso (6-1, 220, So.)

# BUCKEYES

Stadium: Ohio Stadium (101,568)

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL \* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Jim Tressel, 6th year (50-13)

Career record: 50-13 (Division I-A)

Assistant coaches: Jim Boltman (off. coord./off line), Joe Daniels (passing game coord./QBs), Darrell Hazell (asst. head coach/WRs), John Peterson (recruiting coord./TEs), Dick Tressel (RBs), Jim Heacock (co-def. coord./def. line), Luke Fickell (co-def. coord./LBs), Tim Beckman (def. backs), Paul Haynes (def. backs)

That promise was reflected when 63,649 ticketed fans turned out for the Scarlet-and-Gray Game, 6,000 more than for any other spring fling ever. Smith played one series and led the Scarlet on an 80-yard march, completing all four of his throws and picking up where he left off last season.

Smith started slowly in 2005, sitting out the Miami (Ohio) game with a suspension for accepting gifts and splitting time with Justin Zwick in a loss to Texas. When he took over against San Diego State, Big Ten football wasn't the same.

The Big Ten leader in passing efficiency hit 62.9 percent of his throws for 2,282 yards and 16 touchdowns, with four interceptions. He became the first quarterback in Buckeyes history to pass for more than 2,000 yards and rush for more than 500.

Smith's 337 yards and two scores against Michigan and 408 yards against the Irish showed his poise under pressure and big game brilliance. If that trend continues, Ohio State could have its sixth Heisman Trophy winner and seventh stiff-arming statue (1970s RB Archie Griffin won two).

His boyhood pal, Ginn, might take some of Smith's votes if he plays the way he did in the Fiesta Bowl. Ginn caught eight passes for 67 yards with a touchdown and rushed twice for 73 yards and a score. But he has been one of the most electrifying players in the country since his coming-out party at Michigan State in 2004.

Ginn's sophomore year included 51 catches for a 15.7-yard average and a league-best 29.6-yard clip on kickoff returns. He already holds the school record with five TDs on punt returns. And he could threaten David Boston's season mark of 85 grabs this year.

His running mate, split end Santonio Holmes, left school early and went 25th in the first round of the NFL Draft to Pittsburgh, where he should replace Antwaan Randle El. Holmes' 53 receptions for 977 yards and 11 TDs won't be easy to replace. But junior Anthony Gonzalez, who had the Big Ten's catch of the year against the Wolverines, could double his 28 grabs of last season.

The running game should be excellent again, led by Pittman, who quietly became one of the best backs in college football last year. He outplayed

Street &amp; Smith's All-American



Minnesota All-American Laurence Maroney in a 186-yard performance, broke a tackle on the game-winning smash against Michigan and had a 60-yard TD sprint against Notre Dame.

Pittman finished with 1,331 rushing yards and a 5.5-yard average. All seven of his scores came in the final six games. That's where underrated fullback Stan White, a graduate student and potential Rhodes Scholar, comes in handy as a terrific lead blocker.

There are other options on the ground. Smith had 11 rushing TDs in 11 games. And mid-year enrollee Chris Wells, the nation's top rushing prospect, could be the perfect complement to Pittman.

Ohio State lost a key performer when center Nick Mangold went 29th in Round One to the New York Jets, who spent two first-rounders on offensive linemen. Guard Robbie Sims was picked by Seattle at the end of the fourth round.

Junior right tackle Kirk Barton (6-7, 325 pounds) could be a major awards candidate before he leaves campus. He's a cinch pro pick when he's finished. And fifth-year right guard T.J. Downing could finish with a flourish.

Versatile senior Doug Datish can start almost anywhere. He was a first-string guard in 2004 and a 12-game starter at left tackle last year. He would have worked at center in the spring but rehabbed a surgically repaired shoulder.

If redshirt freshman Jim Cordle is OK at center, look for Datish to move back to guard. That puts sophomore Alex Boone (6-8, 315) at left tackle, with sophomore Steve Rehring (6-8, 329) ready to help at guard or tackle. Either way, the Buckeyes will have more size up front than most Big Ten basketball teams.

Ohio State won with defense last season, leading the league with yields of just 15.2 points and 281.3 yards per game. The Buckeyes allowed

an average of just 73.4 yards per game on the ground, the fewest in the nation, and were also No. 1 in the league with 44 sacks.

Six players from that unit were drafted, including three first-round picks. Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and Lombardi Award winning linebacker A.J. Hawk went No. 5 to Green Bay. Strong safety Donte Whitner was the No. 8 selection by Buffalo. And linebacker Bobby Carpenter was the No. 18 pick by Dallas.

Cornerback Ashton Youboty joined Whitner with the Bills as a third-round pick. Linebacker Anthony Schlegel was a third-round pick of the Jets. And free safety Nate Salley was a fourth round selection by Carolina. Also gone are end Mike Kudla, tackle Marcus Green and cornerback Tyler Everett.

The big name on defense this year belongs to the biggest player, senior defensive tackle Quinn Pitcock. Hawk, Schlegel and Carpenter should thank him for part of their success. Senior tackle David Patterson is the only other returning starter on that side of the ball.

Tressel thinks he has seven candidates for the three linebacker spots, led by senior John Kerr, who starred four years ago as an Indiana freshman. Kerr should start in the middle, flanked by sophomore James Laurinaitis at the strongside spot and junior Marcus Freeman at weakside 'backer.

Sophomore Malcolm Jenkins and senior Antonio Smith are the probable starters at cornerback, while Brandon Mitchell, Nick Patterson and Jamario O'Neal are the top candidates at safety.

Sophomore A.J. Trapasso will handle the punting again, while sophomore Ryan Pretorius or redshirt freshman Aaron Petrey will try to replace standout placekicker Josh Huston. They should practice their extra points.

## NEXT BIG THING

### LARRY GRANT, junior linebacker

Linebacker Larry Grant was a late addition to Ohio State's recruiting class this year, but it couldn't have come at a better time for the Buckeyes.

With last year's stud trio of Bobby Carpenter, A.J. Hawk and Anthony Schlegel now off to shine on Sundays in the NFL, OSU must rebuild its linebacking unit. Several players will battle it out for starting spots, including Grant, who was the 2005 Junior College National Player of the Year.

The 6-3, 225-pound Grant starred at City College of San Francisco, where he recorded 90 tackles, six sacks, four forced fumbles and six blocked punts last season. He originally signed with Florida, but was informed in January by Gator officials that he didn't have a math credit in order to qualify for the SEC. Ohio State jumped at the opportunity to sign Grant, who qualified under Big Ten rules.

During the Buckeyes' spring practice, Grant acknowledges that there's a big difference in competition between Division I and juco teams.

"The game is a lot faster," Grant says. "After making the transfer from junior college to Ohio State, the game is more intense and there is more thinking involved."

Although Grant played all three linebacker positions at CCSF, he's currently listed on Ohio State's depth chart at the strongside spot. But his versatility will serve him well should he be needed in the middle or on the weakside in certain game situations.

"I'm working on my technique, and slowly learning and molding myself into the defense every day," Grant says. "I have to form a chemistry with the defense. I felt like an outsider, but every day I feel more like a part of the family."

—Matt McKenzie

### 2005 TEAM STATS

	2005	1966	2004	2003	2002
SCORING	392	183			
Points Per Game	32.7	15.2			
FIRST DOWNS	256	188			
Rushing	127	60			
Passing	124	110			
Penalty	5	18			
RUSHING YARDAGE	2360	881			
Yards gained rushing	2575	1305			
Yards lost rushing	215	424			
Rushing Attempts	506	375			
Average Per Rush	4.7	2.3			
Average Per Game	196.7	73.4			
TDs Rushing	23	12			
PASSING YARDAGE	2708	2495			
Alt-Cmp-Int	302 196 5	405 246 6			
Average Per Pass	9.0	6.2			
Average Per Catch	13.8	10.1			
Average Per Game	225.7	207.9			
TDs Passing	18	8			
TOTAL OFFENSE	5068	3376			
Total Plays	808	780			
Average Per Play	6.3	4.3			
Average Per Game	422.3	281.3			
KICK RETURNS #-YDS	36-841	25-485			
PUNT RETURNS #-YDS	38-424	12-63			
INT RETURNS #-YDS	6-101	5-109			
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.4	19.4			
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.2	5.2			
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.8	21.8			
FUMBLES-LOST	30-16	15-6			
PENALTIES-YARDS	65-578	59-425			
Average Per Game	48.2	35.4			
PUNTS-YARDS	43-1738	84-3356			
Average Per Punt	40.4	40.0			
Net punt average	37.6	33.5			
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:00	28:00			
3RD-DOWN CONV.	77/156	54/175			
3rd-Down Pct	49%	31%			
4TH-DOWN CONV.	3/6	6/15			
4th-Down Pct	50%	40%			
SACKS BY-YARDS	44-291	18-110			
MISC-YARDS	0	110			
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	47	21			
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	22-28	11-16			
PAT-ATTEMPTS	44-45	18-20			
ATTENDANCE	735120	329121			
Games, Avg Per Game	7/10507	4/82280			
Neutral Site Games	1/76196				

	2005	1966	2004	2003	2002
Ohio State	88	111	98	95	392
Opponents	50	41	49	43	183

### 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

#### OFFENSE

##### PASSING

Troy Smith	GP	Effic.	Alt-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	11	162.65	237-149-4	62.9	2282	16	207.5
Justin Zwick	GP	Effic.	Alt-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	7	126.65	58-42-1	72.4	359	1	51.3
Todd Boeckman	GP	Effic.	Alt-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	4	198.97	7-5-0	71.4	67	1	16.8

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Antonio Pittman	12	243	1331	5.5	7	110.9
Troy Smith	11	136	611	4.5	11	55.5
Maurice Wells	8	61	199	3.3	1	24.9

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Santonio Holmes	12	53	977	18.4	11	81.4
Ted Ginn	12	51	803	15.7	4	66.9
A. Gonzalez	12	28	373	13.5	3	31.1

#### DEFENSE

##### TACKLES

A.J. Hawk	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
	12	69	52	121
Anthony Schlegel	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
	12	41	41	82

##### SACKS

A.J. Hawk	GP	No.	Yds.
	12	9.5	72
Mike Kudla	GP	No.	Yds.
	12	9.5	71

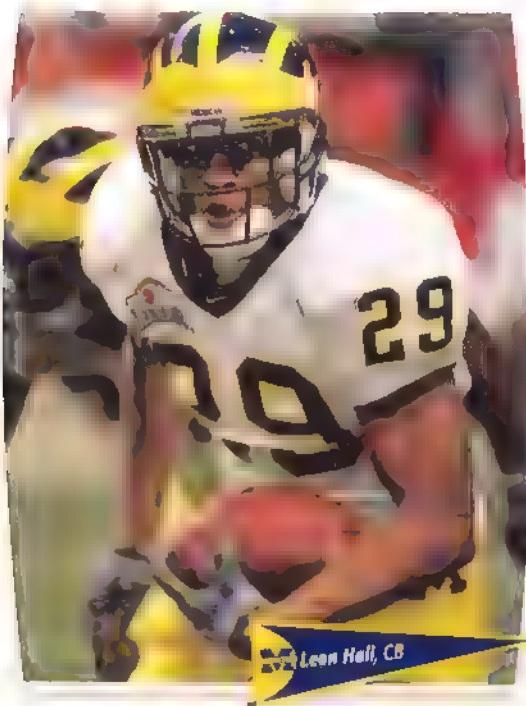
Bobby Carpenter	GP	No.	Yds.
	11	8.0	65
INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.
Donte Whitner	2	26	13.0

Nate Salley	No.	Yds.	Avg.
	1	0	0.0
Brandon Mitchell	No.	Yds.	Avg.



ANN ARBOR

## MICHIGAN



PRESEASON RANK.

#2

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★ ★

2005 Record:

7-5

Big Ten:

5-3

(lost to Nebraska in the Alamo Bowl, 32-28)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
5.2	Vanderbilt	
5.9	Central Michigan	
5.16	NOTRE DAME	W
5.23	Wisconsin	20-23
5.30	@MINNESOTA	20-23
6.7	Michigan State	34-31 (OT)
6.14	@PENN STATE	27-25
6.21	Iowa	23-20 (OT)
6.28	Northwestern	33-17
7.4	Baylor	
7.11	@INDIANA	41-14
7.18	@OHIO STATE	21-25

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Sure, the season finale against Ohio State is always big, but Michigan must win a tough game here in South Bend to be considered national contenders.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/17

## OFFENSE

QB	7	Chad Henne (6-2, 223, Jr.)
FB	40	Obi Oluigbo (6-0, 230, Sr.)
TB	20	Mike Hart (5-9, 198, Jr.)
LT	77	Jake Long (6-7, 316, Jr.)
LG	57	Adam Kraus (6-6, 295, Sr.)
C	54	Mark Bihl (6-5, 303, Sr.)
RG	73	Alex Mitchell (6-5, 311, So.)
RT	72	Rueben Riley (6-4, 303, Sr.)
TE	89	Tyler Ecker (6-6, 247, Sr.)
WR	86	Mario Manningham (6-0, 187, So.)
WR	15	Steve Breaston (6-1, 182, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	90	Tim Jamison (6-3, 249, So.)
NT	80	Alan Branch (6-6, 330, Jr.)
DT	67	Terry Taylor (6-0, 305, So.)
OLB	56	LaMarr Woodley (6-2, 268, Sr.)
ILB	2	David Harris (6-2, 242, Sr.)
ILB	45	Chris Graham (5-11, 225, Jr.)
DLB	37	Prescott Burgess (6-3, 246, Sr.)
CB	29	Leon Hall (5-11, 193, Sr.)
CB	5	Charles Stewart (6-1, 196, So.)
FS	21	Ryan Mundy (6-1, 202, Sr.)
SS	31	Brandon Englemon (5-11, 205, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	38	Garrett Rivas (5-9, 217, Sr.)
P	3	Ross Ryan (6-1, 205, Sr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

Official athletic Web site: www.mgoblue.com

## WOLVERINES

Stadium: Michigan Stadium (107,501)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE   ▲ BOWL   ★ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Lloyd Carr, 12th year (102-34)

Career record: 102-34

Assistant coaches: Erik Campbell (asst. head coach/WRs), Mike DeBord (off. coord./TEs), Ron English (def. coord./safeties), Fred Jackson (assoc. head coach/RBs), Ron Lee (CBs), Scot Loeffler (QBs), Andy Moeller (off. line), Steve Stripling (def. line), Steve Szabo (LBs)

Yes, there were glorious moments. But Carr can consider himself fortunate there, too. The three marquee wins in 2005 came on an overtime field goal at Michigan State, a last-second touchdown against Penn State and an overtime TD at Iowa. So, if it's true that the Wolverines could have been 12-0, they also could have gone 4-7.

The good news in Schembechler Hall? The last time Michigan won fewer than eight games—a 6-6 injury epidemic in 1984—it bounced back with a vengeance the following season, went 10-1-1, allowed just 98 points and finished No. 2 in the nation after a win over Nebraska.

The bad news? As steady as Carr's tenure has been—and his first decade included five conference crowns—his teams have lost three games or more in seven of the past eight years, including the last six. Ohio State has fired coaches for less.

No one is saying that Carr will leave one day before he chooses to do so, but it's time for the Wolverines to snarl for four months, not just when they feel like it.

Expect that to happen in 2006. Despite a schedule with traps and trips to South Bend, State College and Columbus, Michigan has the talent to beat any opponent. And what's new about that? Again, expectations can fuel frustrations when they don't foreshadow glory.

May be the hype was too great last season. The Wolverines had only three players drafted, none before the 109th selection. Underachieving defensive tackle Gabe Watson went to Arizona in Round Four, two picks before wide receiver Jason Avant was grabbed by Philadelphia. Tight end Tim Massaquoi went to Tampa Bay late in the seventh.

Yet Avant, Watson and undrafted offensive tackle Adam Stenavich were first-team all-conference choices. Massaquoi, offensive linemen Matt Lentz and Leo Henige and senior cornerback Leon Hall were second-team picks, giving Michigan seven honorees—two more than a Wisconsin team that won 10 games.

This year's all-star candidates start with a pair of seasoned juniors in quarterback Chad Henne and running back Mike Hart. They should have plenty of help on the flanks and up front. The defense returns eight starters from a unit that preferred 55-minute games. And at least two wins should come from the special teams.

Henne has started all 24 games the past two

BIG TEN  
Wolverines looking to make  
'Big House' feel like home again

**S**uccess depends upon expectations. For the winningest program in college football history, one with 31 straight postseason appearances and the longest active streak in the nation, a 7-5 record and a third straight bowl loss is as close to abject failure as it gets.

The Wolverines have represented the gold standard—or at least the maize one—with 11 national championships and a record 42 Big Ten titles. So when a team that starts the season ranked No. 4 in both polls fails to finish in the Top 25 for the first time in 21 years, how does sizzle turn to fizz?

Coach Lloyd Carr lived with that question all winter and spring. His first 10 Michigan teams were a combined 58-6 in "The Big House." His last squad squandered a home game against Notre Dame, then blew second-half leads over Minnesota and Ohio State in Ann Arbor.

It wasn't just those games that got people thinking. Michigan lost late leads and was stung by unranked Wisconsin in Madison and by Nebraska in a wild Alamo Bowl, its fourth post-Christmas setback in five years.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** Brandon Graham, LB, 6-2, 240  
*Top in-state prospect stayed home.*

**2** Carlos Brown, RB, 6-0, 206  
*How did he get out of Georgia?*

**3** Justin Boren, OL, 6-4, 308  
*Follows father to Wolverines.*

**4** Jonas Mouton, LB, 6-2, 212  
*Another touted California prospect.*

**5** Greg Banks, DL, 6-6, 245  
*Has potential to see a lot of early action.*



seasons and already ranks third in school history in completions, fourth in TD tosses and sixth in yardage. His stats dipped slightly in 2005, with 58.4-percent accuracy, 2,526 yards, 23 scores and eight interceptions. A reluctant runner, Henne can be a load to tackle near the goal line.

The Wolverines took a hard hit before spring drills when swift sophomore Antonio Bass, a terrific change-of-pace quarterback and a dangerous runner/receiver, was lost for the year with a knee injury in a conditioning drill. Sophomore backup Jason Forcier and incoming freshman David Cone have a lot to learn.

After battling injuries all season, Hart bulked up and got healthy. He was limited to eight games as a sophomore and saw his numbers drop from 1,455 rushing yards in 2004 to 662, from 5.2 yards per carry to 4.4 and from nine TDs to four. He won't break many 80-yarders, but he knows how to run and is much tougher than his smile suggests.

Sophomore Kevin Grady, the most heralded runner Michigan prep football has produced, should be better after dropping more weight than Hart gained. Grady debuted with 483 yards, 4.0 yards per pop and five scores. This year's surprise could be freshman Carlos Brown, a January enrollee with quick-six speed.

Are you sitting down? The Wolverines were ninth in the Big Ten in rushing last season and netted just 3.9 yards per try. They gained just 32 yards in 24 tries against the Buckeyes and couldn't kill the clock with a 21-12 lead. That shriek you just heard was Bo Schembechler threatening to strangle the first offensive aide he sees.

The new line will be anchored at left tackle by massive junior Jake Long, who has dropped 20 pounds in the right places. Long played in only the final five games, but couldn't create any daylight against Ohio State. That should change on Nov. 18.

Senior center Mark Bihl, senior center/guard Adam Kraus, senior tackle/guard Rueben Riley

and sophomore guard/tackle Alex Mitchell need to improve for Michigan's skill players to reach their vast potential.

The scariest threat is senior wideout and return specialist Steve Breaston, one of the best game-breakers Carr or any other leader of the Wolverines has had. Breaston's catches have dropped each year, from 38 to 34 to 26. But he averaged 10.1 yards per rush last year and nearly beat Minnesota with a 95-yard kickoff return.

Without Avant's league-high 82 catches for 1,007 yards and eight scores, look for sophomore Mario Manningham to have more heroics like his game-winning grab against Penn State. Senior wideout Carl Tabb and sophomores Adrian Arrington and Doug Dutch should contribute. And senior Tyler Ecker could be a terrific tight end.

The defensive front loses two starters but returns senior end LaMarr Woodley, who had seven sacks, and junior tackle Alan Branch, who had three sacks in the Alamo Bowl. Another player to watch is sophomore tackle Terry Taylor.

Senior inside linebacker David Harris led the team with 88 stops, while senior outside 'backer Prescott Burgess had 81. Junior inside man Chris Graham is another returning starter.

Hall had 61 tackles, two sacks, four interceptions and a game-changing 83-yard fumble return at Northwestern. Senior safeties Willis Barringer, Branden Englemon and Ryan Mundy also return.

Pudgy placekicker Garrett Rivas and punter Ross Ryan are back for one more year. But will Michigan be back where it belongs?



## NEXT BIG THING

### JAKE LONG, junior offensive tackle

As a boy, Jake Long grew up just an hour's drive from the Michigan campus in Ann Arbor. He watched the school's football games on TV every fall Saturday with his father and dreamed of someday playing for the Wolverines.

Fast-forward to 2006, a time when everyone in "The Big House" and beyond will be keeping an eye on Long, who, at 6-7 and 316 pounds, represents a key cog in Michigan's offensive line. Now a junior, Long is moving from right tackle to left tackle, considered by many the most demanding position for an offensive lineman because it is a spot that protects a right-handed quarterback's blind side (in this case, Chad Hennel).

"I feel really comfortable with the move," Long says. "The first day [of spring practice] felt a little awkward with the footwork, but after that, it felt good. There is a great tradition for the O-line at Michigan and we want to carry that on."

Charles Davis, a TBS college football analyst, points to Long's standout prep career in other sports as proof of his athleticism.

At Lapeer High School, Long played first base and set school records for home runs and RBI as a junior. As the starting center on the basketball team, Long's 62-percent shooting percentage established a new school standard as well.

"You know he's a little nimble because he did those things in high school," Davis says. "And because he's a big kid and he's playing football at Michigan, you know his favorite thing to do is smash something. He's in the right place to do a lot of that."

Expectations among Michigan coaches are running high. Coach Lloyd Carr describes Long as a player with enormous ability and gushes over his potential.

"He's got the kind of temperament that is conducive to greatness and I think that he loves the game," Carr says. "When you have that kind of attitude, the kind of work ethic he has, I think he's on his way."

—Erik Spanberg

## 2005 TEAM STATS

SCORING	345	244
Points Per Game	28.8	20.3
FIRST DOWNS	259	223
Rushing	111	93
Passing	130	114
Penalty	18	16
RUSHING YARDAGE	1939	1648
Yards gained rushing	2153	1969
Yards lost rushing	214	341
Rushing Attempts	499	430
Average Per Rush	3.9	3.8
Average Per Game	161.6	137.3
TDs Rushing	16	12
PASSING YARDAGE	2672	2494
All-Comp-Int	409 238-8	391 223-12
Average Per Pass	5.5	6.4
Average Per Catch	11.2	11.2
Average Per Game	222.7	202.8
TDs Passing	23	14
TOTAL OFFENSE	4611	4142
Total Plays	908	821
Average Per Play	5.1	5.0
Average Per Game	384.2	345.2
KICK RETLRS. #-YDS	40-936	27-585
PUNT RETURNS. #-YDS	36-423	17-85
INT RETLRS. #-YDS	12-95	8-81
KICK RETR. AVERAGE	23.4	21.7
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.8	5.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	2.9	10.1
FUMBLES-LOST	20-10	23-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	48-382	75-628
Average Per Game	31.8	52.3
PUNTS-YARDS	55-2076	70-2926
Average Per Punt	37.7	41.8
Net punt average	36.2	35.8
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME	31:23	28:37
3RD DOWN CONV.	78/188	60/168
3rd-Down Pct	41%	36%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	12/23	2/8
4th-Down Pct	52%	25%
SACKS BY-YARDS	24-187	24-132
MISC YARDS	83	125
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	41	28
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	20-27	16-23
PAT-ATTEMPTS	35-37	24-25
ATTENDANCE	776405	280138
Games/Avg Per Game	7/110915	4/70034
Neutral Site Games		1/62000

	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Michigan	94	123	38	B1	9	345
Opponent	51	71	22	97	3	244

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

### OFFENSE

#### PASSING

Chad Henne	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
GP	12	129.60	382-223-8	58.4	2526	23	210.5
Matt Guteierrez	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
GP	8	114.42	22-14-0	63.6	133	0	16.6

#### RUSHING

Mike Hart	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G	
GP	8	150	662	4.4	4	82.8	
Kevin Grady	GP	11	121	483	4.0	5	43.9
GP	10	54	228	4.2	3	22.8	

#### RECEIVING

Jason Avant	GP	12	82	1007	12.3	8	83.9
GP	12	27	433	16.0	6	361	
M. Manningham	GP	11	26	291	11.2	2	26.5
GP	11	26	291	11.2	2	26.5	

#### DEFENSE

David Harris	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total	
GP	11	52	36	88	
Grant Mason	GP	12	60	25	85
GP	12	45	36	81	

#### SACKS

LaMarr Woodley	GP	No.	Yds.	
GP	11	7.0	57	
Alan Branch	GP	12	5.0	13
Shawn Crable	GP	12	3.0	30

#### INTERCEPTIONS

Leon Hall	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	
GP	4	10	2.5	0	
Willis Barringer	GP	2	14	7.0	0
GP	2	47	23.5	0	

## PENN STATE

## Nittany Lions should have Paterno roaring into his 80s

**J**ust when cynics said Joe Paterno had rigor mortis, his team made a run at immortality. Perhaps when people say, "Life begins at 40," they mean in your 40th season as a head coach.

The never-say-die Nittany Lions were 11-1 and one second from perfection in perhaps Paterno's finest season. That's saying more than any three-hour lecture could for the second-winningest leader in Division I-A history.

Penn State shared the Big Ten title with Ohio State, a team the Lions beat 17-10, and shredded opposing offenses from Sept. 3 to Jan. 3. Actually, it was well into Jan. 4, when the Lions outlasted Florida State in triple overtime at the Orange Bowl.

For Paterno and the Seminoles' Bobby Bowden, who have combined for 713 wins, "A Pleaser from the Geezers" was proof that age is just a number—unless your program had four losing records in five years, as Penn State did.

That 26-33 skid in Unhappy Valley from 2000-04 made last season more amazing and rewarding. The transformation started when Paterno showed he was willing to change more than his white socks to win again.

Paterno will be 80 years old when he leads the Lions into postseason play for the 33rd time, probably in January 2007. But Paterno has been more than paternal to Penn State players and coaches since 1950, his first year as Rip Engel's rookie assistant.

Though Paterno has assistants who have won in Beaver Stadium longer than any two seniors have been alive, he has learned to trust his freshmen, too. And why shouldn't he treat them all like his great-grandsons?

The Lions treated their pride to the program's 13th top-five finish in the polls since 1968. Without a last-gasp pass by Michigan, we would have had a BCS debate for the ages, not just the aged.

It won't be the same without Michael Robinson, a superior leader, at quarterback. With 12 other starters gone, the thought is that 2005 was an anomaly. But a 10-win season still seems possible with a handful of superb players.

Actually, the future is bright. Three Penn State players earned Freshman All-America mention last year. A fourth was a lock to make it if he hadn't been injured in Week Seven. And Paterno's staff landed the league's top incoming class again.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** **A.J. Wallace, DB, 6-1, 195**  
Top cover cornerback should see time this year.

**2** **Maurice Evans, DE, 6-3, 260**  
New York pipeline pays dividends.

**3** **Antonio Logan-El, OL, 6-4, 307**  
Massive blocker may play early.

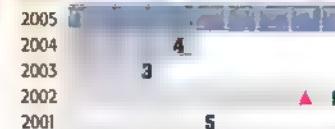
**4** **Jared Odrick, DE, 6-5, 285**  
A defensive bookend with Evans.

**5** **Evan Royster, RB, 6-0, 200**  
Virginian could be a future star.

## NITTANY LIONS

Stadium: Beaver Stadium (107,282)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



## ■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL \* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Joe Paterno, 41st year (354-117-3)

Career record: 354-117-3

Assistant coaches: Dick Anderson (off. line), Tom Bradley (def. coord.), Galen Hall (off. coord./RBs), Larry Johnson (def. line) Bill Kenney (off. tackles/TEs), Mike McQueary (ass't WRs/recruiting coord.), Brian Norwood (def. backs), Jay Paterno (QBs), Ron Vanderlinde (LBs)

## PRESEASON RANK:

#3

## POWER RATINGS

	OFFENSE	DEFENSE	SPECIAL TEAMS	COACHING
2005	4	4	4	4
2004	5	5	5	5
2003	3	3	3	3
2002	5	5	5	5
2001	5	5	5	5

2005 Record:

**11-1**

Big Ten:

**7-1**

(beat Florida State in the Orange Bowl, 26-23)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
9/2	Akron	
9/9	@NOTRE DAME	
9/16	Youngstown State	
9/23	@OHIO STATE	17-10
9/30	Northwestern	34-29
10/7	@MINNESOTA	44-14
10/14	<b>Michigan</b>	<b>25-27</b>
10/21	Illinois	63-10
10/28	@PURDUE	33-15
11/4	@WISCONSIN	35-14
11/11	Temple	
11/18	Michigan State	31-22

## ★ GAME TO WATCH \*

The Nittany Lions need to play winning football for 60 minutes this time, not for 59:59.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11  
Lettermen returning/lost: 35/25

## OFFENSE

QB	14	Anthony Morelli (6-4, 214, Jr.)
FB	30	Brandon Snow (6-1, 242, Sr.)
TB	26	Tony Hunt (6-2, 219, Sr.)
LT	67	Levi Brown (6-5, 324, Sr.)
LG	76	Gerald Cadogan (6-5, 302, So.)
C	57	A.Q. Shipley (6-1, 292, So.)
RG	65	Robert Price (6-0, 298, Sr.)
RT	78	John Shaw (6-4, 294, Jr.)
TE	44	Patrick Hall (6-2, 251, Sr.)
WR	3	Deon Butler (5-10, 163, So.)
WR	2	Derrick Williams (6-0, 201, So.)

## DEFENSE

DE	47	Josh Games (6-2, 258, So.)
DT	13	Jay Alford (6-3, 288, Sr.)
DT	92	Ed Johnson (6-1, 290, Sr.)
DE	99	Jim Shaw (6-3, 260, Sr.)
OLB	40	Dan Connor (6-3, 220, Jr.)
MLB	20	Tim Shaw (6-1, 233, Sr.)
OLB	31	Paul Posluszny (6-2, 229, Sr.)
CB	1	Justin King (6-0, 181, So.)
CB	11	Tony Davis (5-10, 189, So.)
S	6	Donnie Johnson (6-0, 205, Sr.)
HER	24	Nolan McCready (6-0, 199, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	23	Kevin Kelly (5-7, 175, So.)
P	36	Jeremy Kapinos (6-1, 222, Sr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

Junior Anthony Morelli has been groomed to replace Robinson, co-Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year and a fourth-round draft pick by San Francisco. Robinson produced 3,156 yards of offense and 28 touchdowns last year. Morelli appeared in six games (13-for-20, 155 yards).

The strength of the offense should be a precocious corps of wide receivers, including five of the best sophomores a Big Ten team has seen. Deon Butler, Jordan Norwood, Derrick Williams, Justin King and 2005 injury-redshirt Mark Rubin have done more in one season than many do in a career.

Butler led the Lions with 37 catches for 691 yards and nine scores, including five grabs for 125 yards and two TDs against Wisconsin. Norwood was next with 32 receptions for 422 yards, including six for 110 in the Orange Bowl.

Williams—the nation's top recruit last season in the eyes of many—was the No. 1 target before he broke his arm in the Michigan game. He had 22 catches for 289 yards and one TD, including a 36-yard grab-and-go with 51 seconds left that beat Northwestern. Williams had 668 all-purpose yards and made defenses gasp all year.

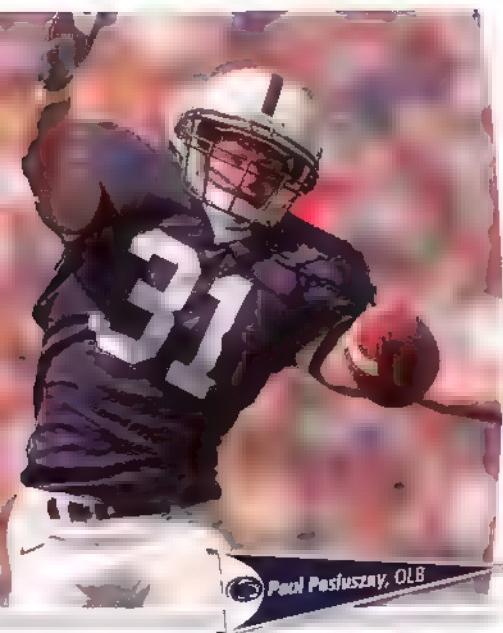
King, who could become the nation's best cornerback by his junior season, had receptions of 57 and 39 yards and reverses of 61 and 43. He capped a terrific debut with five catches against Florida State and averaged an almost-obscene 12.6 yards per carry.

Rubin, who dislocated an ankle in the pre-season, started six of the final seven games in 2004 and could contribute again as a possession receiver. He had 16 grabs before the other sophomores' first snaps.

Penn State has always been a running team, even when its quarterback doesn't rush for 806 yards as Robinson did. Its No. 1 ball-carrier, senior tailback Tony Hunt, ran for 1,047 yards, 6.0 yards per carry and six scores despite sitting out all but the first series against Florida State with an ankle injury. He also caught 20 passes for 206 yards.

Senior Austin Scott is more than your average backup. Taking over for Hunt in the Orange Bowl, he rushed for 110 yards and two scores in the third 100-yard game of his career.

Senior left tackle Levi Brown is the Big Ten's second-best offensive lineman. The second-team All-American helped the Lions lead the league in scoring with 35.2 points per game. He has started 34 times.



Paul Posluszny, OLB

The rest of the front wall on offense needs nametags. Both guards, the center, the right tackle and the tight end will be new. In fact, Penn State's second best blocker might be senior fullback Brandon Snow (6-1, 242).

The defense, No. 2 in the Big Ten last year (17.0 points and 304.7 yards per game), returns only four starters. King could have been the fifth if he hadn't played offense. But those four are as good as any group in college football.

The best in the country is senior outside linebacker Paul Posluszny, last year's winner of the Butkus Award as the nation's top 'backer and the Bednarik Award as its top defender. No less an expert than Hall-of-Famer Jack Ham called him "the best linebacker ever to play at Penn State."

Posluszny, a blue-collar player, had his second season with 100-plus tackles, finishing with 116, including 11 behind the line. The seventh Lion to earn All-America and Academic All-America honors in one season needs 88 tackles to become the program's all-time leader.

Even with Posluszny sidelined by a knee injury late in the Orange Bowl, Penn State allowed just 26 rushing yards, 12 first downs and three-for-17 success on third down. A big reason was the play of the junior outside linebacker Dan Connor and senior middle 'backer Tim Shaw.

Connor, who is ahead of Posluszny's pace with 161 career tackles, had 12 against Ohio State and nine more at Michigan. Shaw had 76 hits and caused two fumbles that were returned for TDs.

The Lions will miss All-America end Tamba Hali, the Big Ten's sack leader and a first-round pick of Kansas City. But the only returning starter up front, senior tackle Jay Alford, was fourth in the league with 8.5 sacks and a second-team all-conference pick.

The other three down linemen and all four starters in the secondary will be new. Senior tackle Ed Johnson, back in school after starting three games in 2004, and senior end Jim Shaw could contribute. Senior safeties Donnie Johnson and Nolan McCready should help King's conversion.

For Penn State to be king again, sophomore placekicker Kevin Kelly, a Freshman All-American, and senior punter Jeremy Kapinos will have to make Paterno feel like coaching another 10 years



## NEXT BIG THING

### JUSTIN KING, sophomore cornerback

To many Penn State fans, Justin King gave the briefly downtrodden Nittany Lions their swagger back.

It was King, after all, who signed with Penn State in November 2004 and enrolled in school two months later. At the time, he was the nation's top prep cornerback and wielded considerable influence with several other top recruits. King helped Penn State persuade Derrick Williams, the nation's top-rated player, to come to Happy Valley with him.

The results are obvious: King turned in a strong freshman season, contributing to a team that posted an 11-1 record, capped by a win over Florida State in the Orange Bowl. Along the way, King, Williams and others set Penn State on a new course—converting a stodgy style of football into a sleeker, speedier attack.

"It feels good," King says. "But it wasn't just me [that turned things around]. It was Penn State. People realized it is a great place to be and the school speaks for itself."

Now King is ready to speak even louder on the field. Much of his freshman season centered

on learning the college game and adjusting to more intense competition.

Unlike high school, King says, college ball doesn't permit players to get by on raw talent.

"You have to learn to anticipate and study your opponents," he says. "I'm starting to get to that point where the game is slowing down for me, where it doesn't feel like everything is moving so fast."

Learning strategy and studying film is hardly foreign for King. His stepfather, Terry Smith, is a former Penn State player and coached King during a stellar prep career at Gateway High School in Pittsburgh.

After the Orange Bowl season in 2005, King says his decision to come to Penn State—made when the school was suffering in football—feels all the better.

"I saw 110,000 people supporting the team even when things weren't so good, and I knew this was a place for me," he says. "The support is crazy, in a good way. And it's a blessing to play for Coach [Joe] Paterno."

—Erik Spanberg

## 2005 TEAM STATS

SCORING	413	204
Points Per Game	34.4	17.0
FIRST DOWNS	261	209
Rushing	135	77
Passing	106	118
Penalty	20	14
RUSHING YARDAGE	2553	1116
Yards gained rushing	2826	1514
Yards lost rushing	273	398
Rushing Attempts	503	442
Average Per Rush	5.1	2.5
Average Per Game	212.8	93.0
TDs Rushing	29	12
PASSING YARDAGE	2505	2540
Att-Cmp-Int	331-175-10	435-246-16
Average Per Pass	7.5	5.8
Average Per Catch	14.3	10.3
Average Per Game	208.8	211.7
TDs Passing	18	11
TOTAL OFFENSE	5058	3656
Total Plays	834	877
Average Per Play	6.1	4.2
Average Per Game	421.5	304.7
KICK RETRNS. #-YDS	28-612	59-1225
PUNT RETURNS. #-YDS	58-401	25-294
INT RETURNS. #-YDS	16-170	10-115
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	21.9	20.8
PLNT RETURN AVERAGE	10.6	11.8
INT RETURN AVERAGE	10.6	11.5
FUMBLES-LOST	23-12	16-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	57-422	84-709
Average Per Game	35.2	58.1
PUNTS-YARDS	61-2522	84-3491
Average Per Punt	41.3	41.6
Net punt average	36.5	36.8
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME	29:33	30:27
3RD-DOWN CONV.	73/166	71/207
3rd-Down Pct	44%	34%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	6/6	9/18
4th-Down Pct	100%	50%
SACKS BY-YARDS	41-272	14-99
MISC YARDS	69	23
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	52	24
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	16-23	12-22
PAT-ATTEMPTS	49-51	16-17
ATTENDANCE	734013	263282
Games/Avg Per Game	7/104859	4/65820
Neutral Site Games		1/77773

	GP	ATL	NET	Avg	TD	Avg/G
Penn State	82	147	68	106	10	413
Opponents	23	56	28	90	7	204

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

### OFFENSE

#### PASSING

Michael Robinson	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	12	127.17	311-162-10	52.1	2350	17	195.8
Anthony Morelli	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G

	GP	ATL	Net	Avg	TD	Avg/G
Tony Hunt	12	174	1047	6.0	6	87.2
M. Robinson	12	163	806	4.9	11	67.2
Austin Scott	11	66	273	4.1	3	24.8

	GP	ATL	Net	Avg	TD	Avg/G
Deon Butler	12	37	691	18.7	9	57.6
J. Norwood	10	32	422	13.2	0	42.2
D. Williams	7	22	289	13.1	1	41.3

#### RECEIVING

	GP	ATL	Net	Avg	TD	Avg/G
Calvin Lowry	12	48	31	79		
	GP	No.	Yds.			
Tamba Hali	12	11.0	79			

	GP	No.	Yds.
Jay Alford	12	8.5	57
Matthew Rice	12	5.0	40
	GP	No.	Yds.

	No.	Yds.	Avg	TD
Alan Zemaitis	6	35	5.8	0
Calvin Lowry	4	36	9.0	0
Anwar Phillips	3	7	7.0	0



IOWA CITY

## IOWA

## Tate's arm and Young legs will have Hawkeyes contending

**I**t could have been so much better last season. But with a fourth straight January bowl appearance, a feat matched only by USC, Georgia and Florida State, the Hawkeyes could have done worse.

To finish 7-5 and still get to play on Jan. 2 speaks volumes about Kirk Ferentz's program and its have-game-will-travel following. Who cares if Iowa's win total has dipped from 11 in the 2002 season to 10 in 2003-04 and then to seven?

With an overtime loss to Michigan and a give-away at Northwestern, the Hawkeyes settled for a 5-3 conference finish and a share of third place last season. But no team has had more than their 25 Big Ten wins over the past four years. With two league titles and three top-10 finishes in the polls, Iowa has given its fans an eyeful.

That should continue this year, especially on offense. Iowa averaged 30 points per game last season and was third in the league in passing. The fireworks could be even brighter with senior quarterback Drew Tate and junior running back Albert Young, a pair of All-America candidates.

Tate was fourth in the conference in passing efficiency with 62.2-percent accuracy, 2,828 yards and 22 scores, with just seven interceptions. He was a first-team All-Big Ten selection in 2004 and improved on most of those numbers as a junior. Tate ranks fifth in school history in air yards and should climb to second, behind only Chuck Long.

If every successful program has a signature moment, Tate's last-snap TD toss in the 2005 Capital One Bowl to beat LSU is the Hawkeyes' favorite highlight. It's that kind of creativity and flair for the dramatic that makes Iowa a title threat as long as Tate has a helmet.

Young was fourth in the league in rushing with 1,334 yards, a 5.4-yard average and eight TDs in '05. But his 1,002 yards in conference play, including a school-record seven straight 100-yard games, led the Big Ten. He ran for 202 yards at Northwestern, 165 at Purdue and 153 against Michigan. Young also caught 24 passes for 244 yards.

The Hawkeyes have had a 1,000-yard rusher in five of the past six seasons, with the lone exception being an injury-ravaged 2004. But should Young go down, Iowa has solid backups in junior Damian Sims (5-9, 185 pounds) and sophomore Shonn Greene (5-11, 225). Sims averaged 9.9 yards on 30 carries last year.

Junior Tom Busch started all 12 games last season and was an excellent lead blocker. He picked up 60 yards on 13 touches as a runner and receiver

### RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** **Jeremiah Hunter, LB, 6-2, 217**  
Pennsylvania product ops for Midwest.

**2** **Adrian Clayborn, DL, 6-3, 250**  
Undersized down linemen could bulk up.

**3** **A.J. Edds, LB, 6-4, 224**  
Biggest Hawkeye need was of this position.

**4** **Arvel Nelson, QB, 6-4, 175**  
Athletic Ohio product may contribute.

**5** **Anthony Bowman, DB, 5-11, 165**  
Finding best position for this great athlete is the big goal.



PRESEASON RANK:

#4

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	5
DEFENSE	5
SPECIAL TEAMS	5
COACHING	5

2005 Record:

7-5 | Big Ten  
5-3

(lost to Florida in the Outback Bowl, 31-24)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2005 RESULT
9/2	Montana	
9/9	@SYRACUSE	
9/16	Iowa State	3-23
9/23	@ILLINOIS	35-7
9/30	Ohio State	6-31
10/7	Purdue	34-17
10/14	@INDIANA	38-21
10/21	@MICHIGAN	20-23 (OT)
10/28	Northern Illinois	
11/4	Northwestern	27-28
11/11	Wisconsin	20-10
11/18	@M MINNESOTA	52-28

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

*A payback upset of the visiting Buckeyes would make Iowa the Big Ten team to beat.*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 45/25

## OFFENSE

QB	5	Drew Tate (6-0, 192, Sr.)
FB	35	Tom Busch (5-11, 231, Jr.)
RB	21	Albert Young (5-10, 209, Jr.)
LT	78	Dace Richardson (6-6, 306, So.)
LG	76	Mike Jones (6-5, 299, Sr.)
C	54	Mike Elgin (6-4, 288, Sr.)
RG	71	Seth Olsen (6-5, 301, So.)
RT	73	Marshal Yanda (6-4, 305, Sr.)
TE	87	Scott Chandler (6-7, 257, Sr.)
WR	22	Calvin Davis (6-1, 197, Sr.)
WR	4	Herb Grigsby (6-0, 175, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	92	Ken Iwebema (6-4, 270, Jr.)
DT	53	Matt Kroul (6-3, 271, So.)
DT	47	Mitch King (6-3, 264, So.)
DE	99	Bryan Mattison (6-3, 272, Jr.)
OLB	27	Edmond Miles (6-1, 228, Sr.)

MLB	40	Mike Klinkenborg (6-2, 240, Jr.)
WLB	44	Mike Humpal (6-2, 232, Jr.)
LCB	19	Adam Shoda (6-1, 185, Jr.)
RCB	13	Charles Godfrey (6-1, 208, Jr.)
FS	25	Marcus Paschal (6-0, 207, Sr.)

SS	15	Miguel Merrick (6-0, 203, Sr.)
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## SPECIALISTS

PK	1	Kyle Schlicher (5-9, 184, Sr.)
P	6	Andy Fenstermaker (6-3, 225, Sr.)

## HAWKEYES

Stadium: Kinnick Stadium (70,585)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



## ■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ■ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Kirk Ferentz, 8th year (49-35)

Career record: 67-57

Assistant coaches: Ron Bernard Aiken (def. line), Lester Erb (WRs/special teams), Carl Jackson (RBs), Eric Johnson (recruiting coord./TEs), Reese Morgan (off. line), Ken O'Keefe (off. coord./QBs), Norm Parker (def. coord./ILBs), Phil Parker (def. backs), Darrel Wilson (OLBs/special teams)

and is capable of more. So are Busch's backups, senior Champ Davis (6-2, 238) and freshman Calvin Bailey (6-0, 240).

The offensive line loses left tackle Ben Gates and center Brian Ferentz. But with returning seniors Mike Jones, Mike Elgin and Marshal Yanda, impressive depth and the projected comeback of Lee Gray, a 2004 starter, Tate and Young should have plenty of able bodyguards.

Jones started at both tackle spots and at left guard last season. He should be strictly a guard this year. Elgin, who started every game at right guard, should return to center, where he played in 2004. And Yanda is projected as the No. 1 right tackle after starting the last eight games there and also playing left guard.

Sophomore Dace Richardson played as a true freshman and will have every chance to start at left tackle. But Gray started 11 games there two years ago before undergoing preseason knee surgery. And 11 other linemen with solid credentials are waiting for opportunities.

Senior tight end Scott Chandler has the long arms to be another good blocker and the soft hands to be Iowa's leading receiver, as he was last year with 47 catches for 552 yards and two scores. Senior Ryan Majerus (6-3, 245) had 10 grabs for 95 yards and two TDs, while sophomore Tony Moeaki (6-4, 250) added eight receptions for 112 yards.

Wide receiver is a potential problem area with the departure of Ed Hinkel, Clinton Solomon and Matt Melloy. Hinkel and Solomon combined for 86 catches, 1,318 yards and 14 scores as seniors. Hinkel was also a valuable punt returner.

Senior Calvin Davis (6-1, 197) and junior Herb Grigsby (6-0, 175) are the probable starting wideouts. Davis started four games in 2003, while Grigsby filled in for three games last season. Tate can make both players look better.

The Hawkeyes have seven starters back on defense, but the losses are sure to be felt. Linebackers Chad Greenway, the first-round draft pick of Minnesota, and Abdul Hodge, a third-round choice of Green Bay, were the top two tacklers in the league last year. And cornerbacks Antwan Allen and Jovon Johnson had a combined 85 starts.

That means the strength of the defense, at least initially, should be the front four. Last year's rebuilt line took some time to develop, a problem that shouldn't confront Defensive Coordinator Norm Parker, who's been a finalist the past two seasons.



Drew Tate, QB

For the Broyles Award, which is given to the country's top assistant coach.

Junior ends Ken Iwebema and Bryan Mattison started every game as sophomores and combined for 19.5 tackles for losses. Iwebema was a first-team All Big Ten pick with seven sacks, a forced fumble and two blocked kicks.

Sophomores Matt Kroul and Mitch King got a baptism by fire at tackle. Kroul started every game, while King started the last nine and was the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week for his work against Wisconsin, when the Badgers scored just 10 points and NFL draftee Brian Calhoun was held to 18 yards rushing.

Without Hodge's 158 tackles and Greenway's 156 last season, the bulk of the stops should go to senior outside linebacker Edmond Miles, who started every game and had 68 hits, nine behind the line of scrimmage. He should be better this time. He'd better be.

Juniors Mike Humpal and Mike Klinkenborg are set to fill the spots, if not the shoes, of Greenway and Hodge. If Ferentz gets 75 percent of those stars' production, his team will play on New Year's Day.

The falloff at the corners could be just as costly. Allen had 235 career tackles and eight interceptions. And Johnson had 181 stops and 17 picks, the second-highest total in school history. Juniors Charles Godfrey, a converted safety, and Adam Shada are the logical fill-ins.

The safety net in the secondary is the return of senior safeties Marcus Paschal and Miguel Merrick. Paschal has started 23 games and Merrick 12. However, they haven't faced the challenges they will with new corners.

The kicking game should be a definite plus with senior placekicker Kyle Schlicher and senior punter Andy Fenstermaker. Schlicher, as in kicker, was 17-for-21 on field goals last season and is 38-for-47 in his career. Fenstermaker averaged 38.5 yards per punt and had 21 boots downed inside the 20-yard line.

The Hawkeyes will get their kicks again, probably in Florida or Texas the week after Christmas. If they head to Pasadena, they'll threaten the records for fun there, too.



## NEXT THING

### ALBERT YOUNG, junior running back

If the name Albert Young doesn't impress you much at first, you're not alone. Iowa Coach Kirk Ferentz felt the same way after an initial glance.

Ferentz paid little attention to Young after a Hawkeyes assistant made mention of recruiting the running back based on a standout prep career in New Jersey. The assistant, Darrell Wilson, never let up.

"He was insistent," Ferentz recalls. "And after I met with Albert, I was impressed. He has a presence about him."

And when Young took the practice field? "He's one of those guys who's faster, who's better in person than he is on film. I can't say enough about the guy."

Last season, Young quietly put together one of the finest performances by an Iowa running back in school history. He became the first Hawkeye to lead the Big Ten in rushing since 1979, averaging 125 yards rushing per game in league play.

For the season, Young gained 1,334 yards on

249 carries and scored eight touchdowns. His success followed frustration early in his college career. As a true freshman, he suffered a broken fibula and, after returning from that injury, tore an ACL.

"It was an emotional roller coaster," Young recalls. "You keep getting excited for the season and then you keep having everything taken away. I was frustrated because you work so hard for 12 games a year and then you can't play. It's made me appreciate everything a lot more because I know it can all slip away in a split second."

After last season's heroics, more observers appreciate Young as well.

"Two years ago, Iowa couldn't run the football—it was all [quarterback] Drew Tate," says Charles Davis, a TBS college football analyst. "Now, all of the sudden, Albert Young enters the picture and they can run the football! He's just a terrific football player and a big part of what Iowa will do this season."

—Erik Spanberg

## 2005 TEAM STATS -----

SCORING	360	240
Points Per Game	30.0	20.0
FIRST DOWNS	272	256
Rushing	107	95
Passing	148	146
Penalty	17	15
RUSHING YARDAGE	2096	1512
Yards gained rushing	2321	1796
Yards lost rushing	225	284
Rushing Attempts	436	470
Average Per Rush	4.8	3.2
Average Per Game	174.7	126.0
TDS Rushing	19	10
PASSING YARDAGE	3093	3080
Att-Comp-Int	404-245-8	445-276-10
Average Per Pass	7.7	6.9
Average Per Catch	12.6	11.2
Average Per Game	257.8	256.7
TDS Passing	23	18
TOTAL OFFENSE	5189	4592
Total Plays	840	915
Average Per Play	6.2	5.0
Average Per Game	432.4	382.7
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	28-454	43-640
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	26-340	16-86
INT RETURNS: # -YDS	10-68	8-237
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	16.2	14.9
PUNT RETRN AVERAGE	13.1	5.4
INT RETRN AVERAGE	6.8	29.6
FUMBLES-LOST	15-9	14-6
PENALTIES-YARDS	52-447	65-500
Average Per Game	37.2	41.7
PLNTS-YARDS	58-2225	73-2985
Average Per Punt	38.4	40.9
Net punt average	36.9	36.2
TIME OF POS./GAME	27:33	32:27
3RD-DOWN CONV.	66/160	91/201
3rd-Down Pct	41%	45%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	2/8	7/19
4th-Down Pct	25%	37%
SACKS BY-YARDS	25-115	19-115
MISC YARDS	38	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	44	32
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	17-21	6-14
PAT-ATTEMPTS	43-44	30-31
ATTENDANCE	423510	342034
Games/Avg Per Game	6/70585	5/68407
Neutral Site Games		1/65881

## SEASON BREAKDOWN

Iowa	119	95	61	82	3	360
Opponents	37	79	41	77	6	240

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS -----

### OFFENSE

#### PASSING

Drew Tate	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	146.35	352-219-7	62.2	2828	22	235.7	
Jason Manson	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
7	86.08	48-24-1	50.0	230	0	32.9	
Cy Phillips	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
2	87.80	21-0	50.0	9	0	4.5	

RUSHING	GP	All.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Albert Young	12	249	1334	5.4	8	111.2
Damian Sims	11	30	296	9.9	4	26.9
Shonn Greene	11	37	173	4.7	1	15.7

RECEIVING	GP	All.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Scott Chandler	12	47	552	11.7	2	46.0
Clinton Solomon	12	46	800	17.4	7	66.7
Ed Hinkel	9	40	518	12.9	7	52.6

### DEFENSE

#### TACKLES

Abdul Hodge	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Chad Greenway	12	95	61	156
Edmond Miles	12	37	31	68
	GP	No.	Yds.	

Kenny Iwebema	GP	No.	Yds.
Bryan Mattison	12	4.0	19
Ryan Bain	12	4.0	12
	GP	No.	Yds.

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Adam Shada	3	9	3.0	0
Jovan Johnson	3	18	6.0	1
Miguel Merrick	1	20	20.0	0

# WISCONSIN




PRESEASON RANK.

#5

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE				
DEFENSE				
SPECIAL TEAMS				
COACHING				

2005 Record

10-3

Big Ten.

5-3

(beat Auburn in the Capital One Bowl, 24-10)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
9/2	@BOWLING GREEN*	56-42
9/9	Western Illinois	
9/16	San Diego State	
9/23	@MICHIGAN	23-20
9/30	@INDIANA	41-24
10/7	Northwestern	48-51
10/14	Minnesota	38-34
10/21	@PURDUE	31-20
10/28	Illinois	41-24
11/4	Penn State	14-35
11/11	@IOWA	10-20
11/18	Buffalo	

## GAME TO WATCH

Defense could rule in a rematch of last season's giveaway, a 99-point game.

\*at Cleveland

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11

QB	7	John Stocco (6-2, 206, Sr.)
FB	44	Chris Pressley (6-1, 268, Jr.)
TB	39	P.J. Hill (5-11, 235, Fr.)
LT	72	Joe Thomas (6-8, 306, Sr.)
LG	75	Andy Kemp (6-6, 321, So.)
C	65	Marcus Coleman (6-6, 314, Jr.)
RG	63	Kraig Urbik (6-6, 321, So.)
RT	71	Eric Vanden Heuvel (6-7, 326, So.)
TE	82	Sean Lewis (6-7, 245, So.)
WR	13	Marcus Randle El (5-10, 191, Jr.)
WR	19	Paul Hubbard (6-4, 218, Jr.)

## DEBUTS

DE	95	Joe Monty (6-2, 258, Sr.)
DT	91	Jason Chapman (6-4, 283, So.)
DT	96	Nick Hayden (5-5, 310, Jr.)
DE	92	Matthew Shaughnessy (6-6, 227, So.)
OLB	7	DeAndre Levy (6-3, 220, So.)
MLB	41	Mark Zalewski (6-2, 236, Sr.)
OLB	46	Jonathan Casillas (6-2, 208, So.)
LCB	17	Allen Langford (5-11, 188, So.)
RCB	27	Jack Mewane (6-1, 199, So.)
FS	22	Roderick Rogers (6-2, 186, Sr.)
SS	16	Joe Stellmacher (6-1, 222, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	10	Taylor Mehlhaff (5-11, 185, Jr.)
P	94	Ken DeBauche (6-2, 221, Jr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

# BADGERS

Stadium: Camp Randall Stadium (79,500)

## 1-YEAR WINS TREND



## CONFERENCE TITLE

## BOWL

## NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Bret Bielema, 1st year

Assistant coaches: Bob Bostad (TEs), Paul Chryst (off. coord./QBs), Kerry Cooks (def. backs), Dave Doeren (co-def. coord./LBs), Mike Hankwitz (def. coord.), Henry Mason (WRs), Randall McCray (def. line), Bob Palcic (off. line), John Settle (RBs)

who should be one of the first offensive linemen on NFL lists next April. His smarts, strength and sleeve length are unmatched in the college game.

Also back are sophomore guard Kraig Urbik, a bookend bodyguard, and unsung senior quarterback John Stocco. Stocco's 25 straight starts is the fourth-longest streak among active Division I-A signal-callers. Only Matt Leinart of USC, Vince Young of Texas and Jared Zabransky of Boise State won more games as No. 1 quarterbacks the past two years.

Stocco was third in the conference in passing efficiency with 60.1-percent accuracy, and added 2,920 yards, 21 scores and nine interceptions. His yardage, touchdowns and 197 completions were all school records. But his biggest play was a four-yard draw for the winning TD against Michigan.

His top three receivers—Williams, Calhoun and Jonathan Orr, a sixth-round pick of the Tennessee Titans—had 152 catches for 2,354 yards and 16 scores, leaving a huge void. It doesn't help that tight ends Owen Daniels and Jason Pociask went to Houston in the fourth round and the Jets in the fifth round, respectively.

Junior Marcus Randle El, Antwaan's brother, should be the go-to wideout. Juniors Jarvis Minton and Paul Hubbard will battle to start on the opposite flank, while junior Andy Crooks, a converted linebacker, and sophomore Sean Lewis, an ex-quarterback, will battle at tight end. That foursome combined for two catches last year.

Redshirt freshman P.J. Hill (5-11, 235) is about 40 pounds heavier than Calhoun at running back. But he's 2,207 rushing and receiving yards and 24 TDs lighter on last year's stats line. Junior Jamil Walker (6-2, 221), the top returning ball-carrier with 96 yards, is another possibility.

The Badgers could have the Big Ten's top defense with eight starters back, including senior linebacker Mark Zalewski and senior safeties Joe Stellmacher and Roderick Rogers, all three all-conference candidates. Stellmacher and Zalewski teamed for 173 tackles, while Rogers averaged 31.3 yards on three interception returns.

Other key returnees include sophomore end Matthew Shaughnessy, tackles Nick Hayden and Jason Chapman, senior end Joe Monty and sophomore cornerback Allen Langford.

Junior Ken DeBauche was the league's best punter last season with a 44.8-yard average and 22 kicks downed inside the opponents' 20. And junior Taylor Mehlhaff was 14-for-20 on field goals. He won't get the chance to kick 56 extra points again.

## Life after Barry is going to take some getting used to in Madison

The Badgers have had just 12 seasons with eight or more triumphs in the past century. Ten of those came in the last 13 years under the direction of Barry Alvarez.

Before we send Alvarez to the director of athletics' box in Camp Randall Stadium and salute the arrival of coaching heir Bret Bielema, let's take one more look at one of the most underrated architects in college football history.

Alvarez's 118 wins are the eighth-highest total for a Big Ten leader. His 3-0 Rose Bowl record is the conference's all-time best. And his 8-3 postseason mark is No. 1 in NCAA annals for coaches with 11 or more bowl opportunities.

Enter Bielema, the youngest head coach in Division I-A at 36 and the only one born in the 1970s. After assisting Hayden Fry and Kirk Ferentz at Iowa for nine seasons and aiding Bill Snyder at Kansas State for two more, the former Hawkeye walk-on-turned-captain made his way to Madison in 2004.

As the defensive boss for teams that went 19-6, ranked sixth in the nation in points allowed and stunned seventh-ranked Auburn on Jan. 2 in Orlando, Bielema showed the work ethic he developed on his family's hog farm in Prophetstown, Ill.

For Wisconsin to equal last season's 10-3 mark or even match a 5-3 Big Ten finish, Bielema and coordinator Paul Chryst will have to find eight new starters for an I-formation offense that averaged 34.3 points a game.

The biggest losses, running back Brian Calhoun and receiver/return man Brandon Williams, were one-two in the league in all-purpose yards with a combined 334.3 per game. They were also third-round draft picks of Detroit and San Francisco, respectively.

The top returnee is All-Big Ten left tackle Joe Thomas, a second-team All-American as a junior

## RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Jake Fischer, OL, 6-7, 285  
Early Badger recruit passes eye test

- 2 Gabe Carini, DL, 6-8, 280  
Gives Badgers two in-state 'twins' on line
- 3 Lance Kendricks, WR, 6-4, 210  
Big wideout shows promise
- 4 Brad Thorson, OL, 6-4, 285  
Another massive in-state blocker
- 5 Daven Jones, WR, 6-1, 190  
Athletic receiver who can motor

# MICHIGAN STATE

**5-YEAR WINS TREND**


**Dear John:**  
**Please get the Spartans winning—now**

If any Big Ten coach is on the hot seat, John L. Smith should get asbestos shorts. After overachieving with eight victories in 2003, his program teased us the past two Septembers, then staggered home with five wins each season.

The grumbling grew so loud last fall that Michigan State President LouAnna K. Simon and Director of Athletics Ron Mason, the winningest hockey coach in NCAA history, publicly pledged their support for Smith—and acknowledged the need for improvement.

Vote of confidence or kiss of death?

The Spartans' performance in the very near future should decide that. But if Smith's team can't do better than 1-6 in its last seven league games, no matter how impressive the start, it will be time to start over, as Michigan State seems to do every three or four years.

The Spartans have had nine head coaches in the past 34 seasons. And that includes a tumultuous 12 years under George Perles. Otherwise, the program has had eight leaders in 22 seasons. No wonder the administration wants Smith to stay put.

Smith's No. 1 hope is that senior quarterback Drew Stanton stays healthy. Before breaking a bone in his wrist and suffering in silence, Stanton was one of the best players in college football.

He was second in the conference in total offense at 310.5 yards per game. Stanton was also second in passing efficiency with a league-high 66.7-percent accuracy, along with 3,077 yards, 22 TDs and an injury-induced 12 picks.

Before spring drills began, a healthy Stanton promised Smith that he could go 15 practices without an interception. Mission accomplished. And if you start to respect his arm too much, Stanton can still beat you with his feet.

He isn't alone. Michigan State's spread offense should be even better after scoring 33.8 points and gaining 497.3 yards per game in 2005. Besides having one of the best quarterbacks in school history, the Spartans return their two leading rushers and six of Stanton's top seven receivers.

Sophomore running back Javon Ringer has amazing moves. In a three-back rotation last season, and with just one more rushing attempt than Stanton, Ringer gained 817 yards with a Big Ten-best 6.7 yards per carry. He should be well over 1,200 yards this year.

Junior Jehuu Caulcrick rushed for 478 yards, a 5.4 average and seven scores. And redshirt freshman A.J. Jimmerson can take the carries of former starter Jason Teague.

A deep receiving corps includes seniors Jerramy Scott, Matt Trannon and Kerry Reed and junior


**PRESEASON RANK.**
**#6**
**POWER RATINGS**

OFFENSE	5	5	5	5
DEFENSE	5	5	5	5
SPECIAL TEAMS	5	5	5	5
COACHING	5	5	5	5

**2005 Record:**
**5-6**
**Big Ten:**
**2-6**
**2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	05 RESULT
9/2	Idaho	
9/9	Eastern Michigan	
9/16	@PITTBURGH	
9/23	Notre Dame	44-41 (OT)
9/30	Illinois	61-14
10/7	@MICHIGAN	31-34 (OT)
10/14	Ohio State	24-35
10/21	@NORTHWESTERN	14-49
10/28	@INDIANA	46-15
11/4	Purdue	21-28
11/11	Minnesota	18-41
11/18	@PENN STATE	22-31

**★ GAME TO WATCH ★**

In an ABC night game, the Spartans will try to go 8-2 vs. ND since 1997.

**PROJECTED STARTERS**

Starters returning: 13  
 Lettermen returning/lost: 5/13

**OFFENSE**

QB	5	Drew Stanton (6-3, 230, Sr.)
RB	23	Javon Ringer (5-9, 202, So.)
LT	66	Mike Gyetvai (6-7, 304, Jr.)
LG	74	Kyle Cook (6-3, 295, Sr.)
C	54	John Masters (6-4, 299, Jr.)
RG	73	Roland Martin (6-5, 324, So.)
RT	79	Jesse Miller (6-6, 306, So.)
TE	80	Kellen Davis (6-6, 247, Jr.)
WR	6	Matt Trannon (6-6, 227, Sr.)
WR	18	Terry Love (5-11, 172, Jr.)
WR	32	Jerramy Scott (5-10, 186, Sr.)

**DEFENSE**

DE	47	Brandon Long (6-4, 237, So.)
DT	17	David Stanton (6-3, 291, Sr.)
DT	92	Clifton Ryan (6-2, 304, Sr.)
SLB	95	Justin Kershaw (6-4, 252, So.)
MLB	43	Kaleb Thornhill (6-1, 235, Jr.)
WLB	41	David Herron Jr. (6-1, 252, Sr.)
BAN	38	Cole Corey (5-10, 203, Jr.)
BC	37	Ross Weaver (6-1, 201, So.)
FC	29	Greg Cooper (5-11, 192, Sr.)
FS	21	Otis Wiley (6-2, 208, So.)
SS	28	Mike Bell (5-11, 186, Jr.)
<b>SPECIALISTS</b>		
PK	15	Todd Boleski (5-9, 208, So.)
P	8	Brandon Fields (6-6, 232, Sr.)

# SPARTANS

**Stadium: Spartan Stadium (72,027)**


Terry Love. They combined for 148 catches and 16 scores last season, led by Scott's 49 grabs. Junior tight end Kellen Davis also has the speed to stretch a defense.

The offensive line will have three new starters. Center Chris Morris will be missed, but senior guard Kyle Cook should be solid. And junior tackle Mike Gyetvai can make the switch from right to left tackle.

The defensive line also loses three regulars. Senior end Clifton Ryan is being tried inside at tackle. Senior David Stanton and JC transfer Ogemdi Nwagbua might be good-enough tackles to keep Ryan at end. If not, juco standout Ervin Baldwin will have to deliver at end.

Senior David Herron Jr. is the best of the linebackers. When healthy, junior Kaleb Thornhill can add to the luster his dad and older brother brought to the program. And junior SirDarean Adams has big play ability, as Notre Dame discovered last season.

Strong safety Eric Smith, last year's top tackler and team MVP, was a third-round draft pick of the New York Jets. But the secondary should be better with the shift of free safety Greg Cooper to cornerback, the improvement of senior corner Demond Williams and sophomore free safety Otis Wiley and especially the arrival of juco strong safety Nehemiah Warrick, who was the star of spring drills.

Senior punter Brandon Fields needs to return to his All-America form. And the placekicking has to be better with rocket-legged sophomore Todd Boleski and highly touted freshman Brett Swenson.

**Head coach: John L. Smith, 4th year (18-18)**
**Career record: 128-78**

**Assistant coaches:** Dave Baldwin (off. coord./TEs), Chris Smedland (def. coord./safeties), Mike Cox (LBs), Chuck Driesbach (secondary), Jim McElwain (asst. head coach/WRs), Doug Nussmeier (QBs), Lucious Selman (defensive line), Ben Sirmans (RBs), Jeff Staudland (offensive line)

**RATING THE RECRUITS**
**1 Devin Thomas, WR, 6-2, 213**
*Junior-college product could start from the outset.*
**2 Vaughn Martin, DL, 6-3, 323**
*Canadian prospect seeks early playing time.*
**3 John Stipek, TE, 6-5, 250**
*In-state athlete could play on defense.*
**4 Brett Swenson, PK, 5-8, 151**
*Florida specialist is a prolific boomer.*
**5 Connor Dixon, QB, 6-4, 182**
*Rangy signal-caller of the future?*

# NORTHWESTERN



## Finding a replacement for QB Basanez is top priority for Walker's Wildcats

**H**ow tough is coaching in Evanston, Ill.? When Gary Barnett produced back-to-back Big Ten champs a decade ago, that was one more title than the Wildcats had won in 65 years. After another ring in 2000, Randy Walker waited five years for his second winning season in seven tries. He was rewarded with a contract through 2011.

The Wildcats were 7-5 last season, 5-3 in conference play, and lost 50-38 to UCLA in a bizarre Sun Bowl, when two onside kicks were returned for Bruins touchdowns. Just to reach El Paso, Northwestern had to stun Wisconsin and Iowa after losing to Penn State in the final minute.

Walker's spread attack led the league in total offense at 500.3 yards per game. But the Wildcats were last in total defense with a 480.4-yard average. They were No. 1 in first downs and No. 11 in first downs permitted. The only thing wrong with scoring 32.3 points per game was allowing 33.9.

Still, there is reason for sustained applause. The seniors' 14-10 league mark is the school's first three-year run with Big Ten records of .500 or better. And a fourth straight season with six or more wins overall would be Northwestern's best stretch since 1905.

Most of the headlines in 2005 went to All-Big Ten quarterback Brett Basanez, the media's Offensive Player of the Year, and second-team linebacker Tim McGarigle, the NCAA's all-time leader with 548 tackles. Without them, the Wildcats still return eight starters on each side of the ball.

When a hamstring injury forced senior running back Terrell Jordan to redshirt last year, Tyrell Sutton exploded onto the scene with 1,474 rushing yards, a 5.9-yard average and 16 TDs. The Big Ten's

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Nate Williams, LB, 6-2, 220<br>Pennsylvania defender ready to play. |
| 2 | Mike Boyle, OL, 6-7, 270<br>New Jersey athlete could play early.    |
| 3 | Quentin Davie, LB, 6-4, 200<br>Rangy Missouri prospect has tools.   |
| 4 | Carl Fisher, WR, 6-1, 200<br>Chicago-area product might surprise.   |
| 5 | Justin Vaughn, DB, 6-0, 175<br>Texan could play immediately.        |



PRESEASON RANK:

# 7

### POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	5
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	5

2005 Record: 7-5 | Big Ten: 5-3

(Lost to UCLA in the Sun Bowl, 50-38)

### 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A.31	@ MIAMI (OH)	
S.9	New Hampshire	
S.16	Eastern Michigan	
S.22	@ NEVADA	
S.30	@ PENN STATE	29-34
O.7	@ WISCONSIN	51-48
O.14	Purdue	34-29
S.1/1	MICHIGAN STATE	30-18
O.28	@ MICHIGAN	17-33
N.4	@ IOWA	28-27
N.11	Ohio State	7-48
N.18	Illinois	38-21

### ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Wildcats need to claw the Spartans again to claim a first division spot.

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 46/15

#### OFFENSE

QB	18	C.J. Bachér (6-2, 200, So.)
RB	44	Erynn Cobb (6-1, 255, Sr.)
RB	19	Tyrell Sutton (5-9, 190, So.)
LT	74	Dylan Thiry (6-8, 315, Jr.)
LG	71	Joe Tripodi (6-3, 310, Sr.)
C	50	Trevor Rees (6-2, 205, Sr.)
RG	56	Ryan Keenan (6-4, 290, Sr.)
RT	62	Austin Matthews (6-5, 305, Jr.)
WR	84	Kim Thompson (6-4, 195, Jr.)
WR	3	Shaun Herbert (6-1, 200, Sr.)
WR	8	Ross Lane (6-3, 190, So.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	95	Kevin Mims (6-3, 280, So.)
DT	79	Adam Hahn (6-4, 290, r-Fr.)
DT	70	John Gill (6-3, 290, So.)
DE	72	Mark Koehn (6-3, 270, Jr.)
SLB	42	Demetrius Eaton (6-2, 250, Sr.)
MLB	43	Adam Kadela (6-2, 245, Jr.)
WLB	38	Nick Roach (6-2, 245, Sr.)
LCB	20	Marquice Cole (5-10, 185, Sr.)
RCB	10	Eric Peterman (6-1, 200, So.)
FS	39	Brendan Smith (6-1, 215, So.)
SS	21	Bryan Heinz (6-2, 215, Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	93	Joel Howells (6-4, 225, Sr.)
P	15	Slade Larscheid (6-1, 210, Sr.)

# WILDCATS

Stadium: Ryan Field (47,130)

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	7
2004	6
2003	8
2002	3
2001	4

### ■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL    ★ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Randy Walker, 8th year (37-46)

Career record: 96-81-5

Assistant coaches: Jerry Brown (asst. head coach/def. backs), Greg Colby (def. coord.), Garrick McGee (off. coord.), Adam Cushing (TEs/HBs), Pat Fitzgerald (LBs/recruiting coord.), Bret Ingalls (off. line), Kevin Johns (WRs), Matt McPherson (RBs), Eric Washington (def. line)

Freshman of the Year also caught 44 passes for 396 yards and two scores. Look for more two-back sets this season.

Northwestern led the league with 306.8 air yards per game, as Basanez compiled 30 school records. He was No. 1 in efficiency with 63.2-percent accuracy and added 3,622 yards, 21 TDs and eight interceptions. Sophomore C.J. Bacher and redshirt freshmen Andrew Brewer and Mike Kafka had their moments in spring drills.

Wideouts Mark Philmore and Jonathan Fields are gone, too. They combined for 115 catches. But senior Shaun Herbert led the Wildcats with 79 grabs for 862 yards and six scores. Junior Kim Thompson (6-4, 195 pounds) and sophomore Ross Lane (6-3, 190) are rangy targets who teamed for 43 receptions.

The offensive line could be the conference's best. Last year's right tackle, Zach Strief, was drafted by the New Orleans Saints, but junior left tackle Dylan Thiry (6-8, 315) and senior guards Ryan Keenan and Joe Tripodi are solid. And junior center Austin Matthews will move to right tackle with the return of 2003-04 starting center Trevor Rees.

Defensive tackle Barry Cofield was the first Wildcat drafted by the pros in 2006, a fourth-round choice of the New York Giants, but an experienced group (for one without any seniors) remains. Junior end Mark Koehn, sophomore end Kevin Mims and sophomore tackle John Gill combined for 23 starts last season.

The loss of McGarigle, a seventh-round pick of St. Louis, will leave a huge hole in the middle of an already-porous defense. Senior Demetrious Eaton, sophomore Mike Dinard and redshirt-freshman Chris Jeske will battle for playing time. The fight for respect won't be as easy.

Senior Nick Roach and junior Adam Kadela are back at outside linebacker and middle linebacker. They had 77 and 71 stops, respectively, last year.

Northwestern's best player could be senior cornerback Marquice Cole, a second-team All-Big Ten choice who was second in the league with five interceptions. He was also a terrific punt returner at 27.0 yards per runback. And Cole's improvement in the spring didn't escape Walker's attention.

Senior Bryan Heinz and sophomore Brendan Smith are back at safety for a defense that yielded 6.2 yards per snap. They need to get better, as does senior kicker Joel Howells, who was just 11-for-21 on field goals.

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

# MINNESOTA

**5-YEAR WINS TREND**


## Gophers look to continue their winning ways without Maroney

After four straight seasons with seven or more wins, including three bowl victories, the Golden Gophers have gained our respect. They're 32-18 since 2002 and can conduct tours of Nashville after three trips to the Music City Bowl.

So why would Minnesota be picked eighth in the league? Because Wisconsin, Michigan State, Northwestern or the Gophers have to wind up there. And because a 2-4 finish last season, plus the loss of 10 starters, means another stiff challenge for Coach Glen Mason's staff.

His 2005 team had a 5-1 start, with improbable comebacks against Purdue and at Michigan, the first win over the Wolverines since 1986. But a blocked punt in the closing minute proved disastrous at home against Wisconsin. And a 34-31 loss to Virginia kept Minnesota from posting at least eight wins for the third time in four years.

The Gophers led the Big Ten in scoring at 35.8 points per game and, to no one's surprise, ranked No. 1 in rushing with a 273.1-yard average per game, 60 yards more than the next-best team. No wonder Minnesota punted a league-low 38 times, 23 fewer than Penn State.

Gone are Laurence Maroney—the conference's top rusher with 133.1 yards per game and a first-round NFL selection by New England—and Gary Russell, a perfect No. 2 back with a 6.1-yard average and 18 TDs. Together, they ran for 2,594 yards and were the Big Ten's version of Reggie Bush and LenDale White.

Since the Gophers became the first program in NCAA history to have two 1,000-yard rushers in three straight years, look for someone to burst onto the scene and into the secondary in 2006. The first shot will go to junior Amir Pinnix, who averaged 6.0 yards per carry and was the Big Ten's Offensive Player of the Week for a 206-yard day against Michigan State.

Complicating the issue is the departure of three starting offensive linemen, including All America center Greg Eslinger and All-Big Ten guard Mark Setterstrom. Eslinger won the Outland Trophy and Rimington Award and was a sixth-round pick by Denver, a franchise that loves smart, mobile blockers. Setterstrom went to St. Louis in Round Seven.

Their absence is sure to be noticed by senior quarterback Bryan Cupito, who quietly finished fifth in Big Ten passing efficiency. He completed 59.3 percent of his throws for 2,530 yards and 19 scores. Cupito should improve on those stats this season.

Minnesota's top three receivers return, and Mason wouldn't trade his trio of junior wide



PRESEASON RANK:

#8

**POWER RATINGS**

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record: **7-5**    Big Ten: **4-4**

(lost to Virginia in the Music City Bowl, 34-31)

**2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	2005 RESULT
8/31	@ KENT STATE	
9/9	@ CALIFORNIA	
9/16	Temple	
9/23	@ PURDUE	42-35 (OT)
10/7	Penn State	14-44
10/14	@ WISCONSIN	34-38
10/21	North Dakota State	
10/28	@ OHIO STATE	31-45
11/4	Indiana	42-21
11/11	@ MICHIGAN STATE	41-18
11/18	Iowa	28-52

**\* GAME TO WATCH \***

Another win over the Wolverines would make stadium costs much more palatable.

**PROJECTED STARTERS**

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 31/20

**OFFENSE**

QB	3	Bryan Cupito (6-3, 205, r-Sr.)
FB	18	Justin Valentine (6-2, 230, r-Jr.)
TB	29	Amir Pinnix (6-0, 195, r-Jr.)
LT	64	Steve Shidell (6-5, 285, r-Jr.)
LG	56	Tyson Swaggert (6-4, 285, r-Sr.)
C	77	Tony Brinkhaus (6-4, 300, r-Jr.)
RG	75	Ota Hudson (6-4, 290, r-Fr.)
RT	78	Joe Ainslie (6-7, 310, r-Sr.)
TE	89	Matt Spaeth (6-6, 270, r-Sr.)
WR	84	Logan Payne (6-2, 200, Sr.)
WR	82	Ernie Wheelwright (6-5, 215, Jr.)

**DEFENSE**

TE	92	Steve Davis (6-2, 230, So.)
LT	70	Todd Miesel (6-4, 265, r-Jr.)
RT	90	Eric Clark (6-4, 265, r-Sr.)
RE	91	Willie VanDeSteg (6-4, 250, r-So.)
OLB	46	John Shevlin (6-1, 225, Jr.)

MLB	58	Mike Sherels (6-0, 235, r-Jr.)
OLB	48	Marco Reese (6-3, 230, r-Sr.)
CB	9	Keith Massey (6-1, 200, r-Fr.)
CB	15	Jamal Hams (6-0, 185, r-Jr.)
FS	23	Dominique Barber (6-0, 200, Jr.)

SS	2	Dominic Jones (5-9, 180, So.)
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**SPONSORS**

PK	31	Jason Giannini (5-9, 185, r-So.)
P	41	Justin Kucek (6-0, 200, r-Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

# GOLDEN GOPHERS

Stadium: Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome (64,172)



receiver Ernie Wheelwright (6-5, 215 pounds), senior wideout Logan Payne and senior tight end Mark Spaeth (6-6, 270). Wheelwright and Payne each had 37 catches, while Spaeth hauled in 26 receptions and was a first-team All-Big Ten pick.

When the Gophers were good on defense last year, they held Michigan to 249 yards and Michigan State to 18 points. When they were bad, they surrendered 1,152 yards and 96 points to Penn State and Iowa. To win eight or more games this year, consistency is critical.

With three starters gone from the defensive front, sophomore end Steve Davis is the lone returning regular. Davis had six sacks as a freshman.

The linebacking corps should be one of the league's best with juniors John Shevlin and Mike Sherels and senior Mario Reese. Shevlin had 74 tackles in 2005 and scored on a 60-yard interception return.

Free safety and leading tackler John Pawelski is gone from the secondary, but three starters return in senior cornerback Trumaine Banks, junior corner Jamal Harris and sophomore strong safety Dominic Jones. Banks is being tried at free safety this season.

Sophomore placekicker Jason Giannini was 13-for-19 on field goals last year. Sophomore punter Justin Kucek averaged 39.4 yards.

The Gophers will play three of their first four games on the road. Minnesota and Northwestern are the only teams in the league with six games at home and six on the road.

**Head coach: Glen Mason, 10th year (58-50)**

**Career record: 117-114-1**

**Assistant coaches:** Mitch Browning (asst. head coach/off. coord.), David Lockwood (def. coord./OLBs), Vic Adamle (RBs), Carey Bailey (def. line), Craig Bray (def. secondary), Mark Criner (LBs), Tony Petersen (passing game coord./QBs), Gordon Shaw (guards/centers), Luke Tressel (WRs)

**RATING THE RECRUITS**

**1. Sean McWhorter, DE, 6-3, 245**

In-state defender has potential.

**2. Brylee Callender, RB, 6-0, 200**

Junior-college product will get a look at starting job.

**3. Adam Weber, QB, 6-3, 210**

He might be a year or two away.

**4. Tommy Becker, LB, 6-2, 230**

Good-sized defender who could contribute now.

**5. Dominic Alford, OL, 6-3, 305**

Stocky blocker might see playing time.

## PURDUE



## No hype for this group of Boilermakers, as Tiller looks to regroup after disappointing 2005 campaign

**I**K, the joke is on us—on all of us who built or bought the hype that last year's Boilermakers were ready for big things. Instead, they landed with a huge thud that echoed through late September and the entire month of October.

Eleventh in the polls after a pair of unimpressive wins, Purdue dropped six straight games, including crushers to Minnesota and Northwestern, and finished 5-6 overall and 3-5 in Big Ten play. It was the first losing record in Joe Tiller's nine-year tenure as coach and the first season without a bowl bid.

The Boilermakers' mind-numbing stats included 11th-place league rankings in passing efficiency, pass defense and red-zone defense. They were 10th in time of possession and penalty yards and ninth in five other categories.

Eleven starters are gone from that team, including seven defensive players. Purdue will have to replace last year's most efficient passer, its top rusher, its leading tackler and interceptor, both kickers and five assistant coaches. Also gone is the heavy burden of great expectations.

For the fourth time in 10 seasons, the Boilermakers won't have to face Michigan or Ohio State—again this year, the best draw a team could have. But after opening with four straight home games, Purdue will play six of its last nine opponents away from Ross-Ade Stadium.

Where the Boilermakers play in 2006 isn't as important as who's doing the playing. Tiller thought he had all the players he needed last season, with a veteran quarterback and all 11 starters back on defense. Maybe a different approach and nametags will work.

After replacing Brandon Kirsch at quarterback with five games left, Curtis Painter did all Purdue could

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Selwyn Lymon, WR, 6-4, 210<br>Size, speed make him special.          |
| 2 | Mike McDonald, DE, 6-2, 250<br>Shows potential for playing time.     |
| 3 | Kyle Adams, TE, 6-5, 235<br>Rangy Texan may make mark.               |
| 4 | Kyle Sheehan, DL, 6-3, 245<br>Minnesota prep comes in highly touted. |



PRESEASON RANK:

#9

## POWER PLAYERS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record.

5-6

Big Ten:

3-5

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Indiana State	
S.9	Miami (OH)	
S.16	Ball State	
S.23	Minnesota	35-42 (2OT)
S.30	@NOTRE DAME	28-49
O.7	@IOWA	17-34
O.14	@NORTHWESTERN	29-34
O.21	Wisconsin	20-31
O.28	Penn State	15-33
N.4	@MICHIGAN STATE	28-21
N.11	@ILLINOIS	37-3
N.18	Indiana	41-14
N.25	@HAWAII	

## GAME TO WATCH

Erasing the pain from last year's double-OT crusher is a key to first-division dreams.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11  
Lettermen returning/lost: 4/20

## OFFENSE

QB	12	Curtis Painter (6-4, 228, Jr.)
RB	24	Kory Sheets (6-0, 199, Jr.)
LT	65	Mike Otto (6-5, 304, Sr.)
LG	67	Uche Nwaneri (6-3, 300, Sr.)
C	68	Robbie Powell (6-5, 297, Sr.)
RG	66	Jordan Grimes (6-3, 334, Jr.)
RT	74	Sean Sester (6-8, 309, Jr.)
TE	28	Dustin Keller (6-4, 244, Sr.)
WR	20	Andre Chaffams (6-0, 198, Sr.)
WR	9	Dorien Bryant (5-10, 175, Jr.)
WR	89	Kyle Ingraham (6-9, 228, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	45	Eugene Bright (6-4, 254, Sr.)
DT	90	Ryan Baker (6-6, 282, Jr.)
DT	71	Alex Magee (6-5, 275, So.)
DE	49	Anthony Spencer (6-3, 261, Sr.)
SLB	32	Cliff Avril (6-3, 240, Jr.)
MLB	30	George Hall (6-2, 243, Sr.)
WLB	36	Stanford Keglar (6-2, 240, Jr.)
CB	7	Brandon King (5-11, 184, So.)
CB	5	Zach Logan (5-11, 186, Jr.)
FS	19	Brandon Whittington (6-2, 206, Jr.)
SS	2	Tom Williams (6-2, 204, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	8	Casey Welch (5-9, 167, Sr.)
P	11	Jared Armstrong (6-3, 231, Sr.)

## BOILERMAKERS

Stadium: Ross-Ade Stadium (62,500)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



## CONFERENCE TITLE

## BOWL

## NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Joe Tiller, 10th year (67-43)

Career record: 106-73-1

Assistant coaches: Mark Hagen (asst. head coach/def. tackles/special teams coord.), Bill Legg (co-off. coord./centers/guards), Brock Spack (def. coord./LBs), Ed Zaunbrecher (co-off. coord./QBs), Lou Anarumo (def. backs), John McDonell (off. tackles/TEs), Brian Rock (WRs), Joel Thomas (RBs), Terrell Williams (def. ends)

expect from a redshirt sophomore. He completed 52.4 percent of his passes for 932 yards and just three TDs, with five interceptions. Still, the offense seemed to run smoother with him at the controls, and the Boilermakers won their last three games.

Painter could make a quantum leap with four starters back on the offensive line, one of the league's best receivers and certainly its tallest target. If the offense doesn't deliver as planned, the Boilermakers could lose more than six times.

Center Matt Turner is gone, but senior tackle Mike Otto, junior tackle Sean Sester (6-8, 309 pounds) and junior guard Jordan Grimes should give Painter plenty of time. Purdue passers were sacked just nine times last year. And the center spot should be filled capably by senior Robbie Powell, who started all 11 games at guard.

Junior wideout Dorien Bryant had 80 catches and a league-high 7.3 grabs per game, including 16 receptions against Virginia. Against Notre Dame and Northwestern, he had more than 100 yards through the air and more than 100 on kickoff returns.

Bryant will be even better if 6-foot-9 senior wideout Kyle Ingraham approaches his potential. Before missing spring ball, Ingraham had 41 catches for just 500 yards and never found the end zone in 2005. And it won't hurt if a new tight end makes the fans forget Charles Davis, a fifth-round NFL pick by the Steelers.

Gone from the defense are strong safety Bernard Pollard, a second-round choice of Kansas City, and ends Ray Edwards and Rob Ninkovich, who went to Minnesota in Round Four and New Orleans in Round Five, respectively. Pollard led the Boilermakers with 92 tackles and three interceptions. And Ninkovich had eight sacks while starting just the last five games.

The lone returning starter on the defensive line is senior end Anthony Spencer. Back at linebacker are senior George Hall and junior Stanford Keglar. And the only starter returning in the secondary is junior Zach Logan.

Seniors Casey Welch and Jared Armstrong should take over the placekicking and punting, respectively. But Tiller knows the value of fresh faces. He welcomed five junior-college transfers and a high school player in January.

Tiller would also like to welcome back Drew Brees, Taylor Stubblefield, Roosevelt Colvin and Travis Dorsch. He knows that's not possible. The challenge is to groom a new group of stars before Purdue has another season to forget.

## BLOOMINGTON

**INDIANA  
HOOSIERS**

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, 1-7 Big Ten

Before the Big Ten's seven bowl games, the Hoosiers got a victory of their own. Their coach, Terry Hoeppner, underwent successful surgery to have a tumor removed from his right temple on Dec. 27 and should be 100 percent this season.

After a successful tenure at Miami of Ohio, Hoeppner's first Indiana team was 4-7 overall and 1-7 in the conference. The Hoosiers were last in the league in total offense at 350.8 yards per game and in penalty yards.

But there were bigger issues than instant efficiency. Home attendance was up 39 percent, including a 110-percent jump among students. If tradition has to start somewhere, Hoeppner more than did his part.

So did giant wide receiver James Hardy (6-7, 216 pounds), who debuted with 61 catches for 893 yards and 10 scores. He led the Big Ten with 89.3 yards receiving per game, including an 83-yard reception at Wisconsin, and could rewrite the Indiana record book.

Junior Blake Powers had a school-record 37 completions against Iowa, but was ninth in the league in passing efficiency with 56.4-percent accuracy, along with 209.5 yards per game, 22 TDs and a conference-high 16 interceptions.

The senior starters back on offense are center Chris Mangiero, guard Justin Frye, tight end Matt O'Neal and wideout Jahkeen Gilmore, who had 30 catches last year.

Sophomore Marcus Thigpen, who had 32 catches as a wideout, is now a running back. But the No. 1 ball-carrier will likely be a redshirt freshman: Demetrius McCray, Justin Carrington or Bryan Payton.

On defense, second-team All-Big Ten end Victor Adeyanju and outside linebacker Kyle Killon have graduated. Junior Charlie Emerson and sophomore Greg Brown are the key players back on the defensive line, but no linebackers with more than three college starts are returning.

The secondary returns intact, led by junior corner Tracy Porter, who had a 96-yard interception return in a win against Central Michigan that got the Hoosiers off to a 4-1 start.

Senior safeties Will Meyers and Troy Grosfield and junior corner Leslie Majors are solid but shouldn't have to be the top four tacklers. And Lance Bennett is dangerous on kickoff returns. Fewer attempts would help.



## PRESEASON RANK

# 10

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	3
2003	2
2002	3
2001	5

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Terry Hoeppner,  
2nd year (4-7)  
**Career record:** 52-32  
**Stadium:** Memorial Stadium  
**Capacity:** 52,180  
**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.iuhoosiers.com](http://www.iuhoosiers.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2 Western Michigan	
S.9 @BALL STATE	
S.16 Southern Illinois	
S.23 Connecticut	
S.30 WISCONSIN	24-41
O.7 @ILLINOIS	36-13
O.14 Iowa	21-38
O.21 @OHIO STATE	10-41
O.28 Michigan State	15-46
N.4 @MINNESOTA	21-42
N.11 Michigan	14-41
N.18 @PURDUE	14-41

## GAME TO WATCH

A win at home in the Big Ten opener could propel the Hoosiers to a surprising 6-0 start.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/17

## OFFENSE

QB	14	Blake Powers (6-4, 224, Jr.)
RB	22	Demetrius McCray (5-1, 189, Fr.)
LT	67	Kyle Thomas (6-4, 290, So.)
LG	50	Jonathan Sandberg (6-2, 290, Jr.)
C	74	Chris Mangiero (6-1, 305, Sr.)
RG	60	Justin Frye (6-5, 296, Sr.)
RT	79	Scott Anderson (6-6, 308, Sr.)
TE	83	Matt O'Neal (6-1, 229, Sr.)
WR	82	James Hardy (6-7, 216, So.)
WR	1	Jahkeen Gilmore (6-0, 211, Sr.)
WR	82	James Bailey (6-2, 199, So.)

## DEFENSE

DE	92	Kenny Kendal (6-3, 248, Sr.)
DT	62	Greg Brown (6-2, 303, So.)
DT	93	Charlie Emerson (6-5, 266, Jr.)
DE	52	Tyler Altman (6-0, 255, Jr.)
LB	51	Adam McCullough (6-0, 230, Jr.)
LB	46	Jake Powers (6-1, 230, Sr.)
LB	56	Geno Johnson (6-2, 204, So.)
LCB	9	Tracy Porter (5-10, 181, Jr.)
RCB	28	Leslie Majors (5-9, 159, Jr.)
FS	39	Will Meyers (5-11, 201, Sr.)
SS	5	Troy Grosfield (6-0, 182, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	10	Joe Klemish (5-11, 167, So.)
P	44	Tyson Beattie (6-1, 204, Sr.)

## CHAMPAIGN

**ILLINOIS  
FIGHTING ILLINI**

2005 Record: 2-9 overall, 0-8 Big Ten

Ron Zook brought his orange-and-blue wardrobe but couldn't bring Florida's players when he showed up in Champaign last season. The result was a predictable 2-9 overall record and 0-8 in Big Ten play.

It wasn't just that the Fighting Illini finished with nine straight losses. Their fight disappeared, as they were outscored 386-114 from Sept. 17 on, never coming closer than 15 points.

The good news is that Illinois will have 10 starters back on offense and 10 more on defense. The bad news is that those players were last in the league in 10 categories, including points per game (17.0), points allowed per game (39.5), passing offense (196.5 yards per game), rushing defense (234.0) and turnover margin (minus-11).

Senior quarterback Tim Brasic helped the Illini rally from 20 down for an overtime win against Rutgers. But he was 10th in the league in passing efficiency with 61.1-percent accuracy, along with 218.1 yards per game, 11 TDs and 11 interceptions.

The entire offensive line returns and must improve dramatically. Tackle Akim Millington (6-6, 300 pounds), an Oklahoma transfer, should help a team that scored 14 or fewer points six times.

If the line holds up and the passing is adequate, seniors Pierre Thomas and E.B. Halsey and sophomore Rashard Mendenhall should be a solid corps of running backs. Thomas and Halsey teamed for 1,013 yards on the ground and 66 catches.

The other receiver with more than 21 grabs was wideout Kyle Hudson, who had 31 catches as a lightly recruited freshman, including seven of more than 30 yards.

Junior tackle Chris Norwell (6-6, 290) is the most experienced defensive lineman returning. End Derek Walker was one of the nation's top freshmen in 2005. And he couldn't ask the linebackers for much help, with the top five contributors there being either freshmen or sophomores.

If there is a strength on a defense that allowed 124 points against Michigan State and Penn State, it would have to be the secondary. Junior strong safety Kevin Mitchell led Illinois with 78 stops, while junior free safety Justin Harrison had 63 in eight games.

No Illini player had more than one interception last year. Takeaways will be essential this season.



## PRESEASON RANK

# 11

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	2
2004	3
2003	1
2002	5
2001	1

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Ron Zook, 2nd year (2-9)  
**Career record:** 25-23  
**Stadium:** Memorial Stadium  
**Capacity:** 69,249  
**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.fightingillini.com](http://www.fightingillini.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2 Eastern Illinois	
S.9 @RUTGERS	33-30 (OT)
S.16 Syracuse	
S.23 Iowa	7-35
S.30 @MICHIGAN STATE	14-61
O.7 Indiana	13-36
O.14 Ohio	
O.21 @PENN STATE	10-63
O.28 @WISCONSIN	24-41
N.4 Ohio State	2-40
N.18 @NORTHWESTERN	21-38

## GAME TO WATCH

A late-season matchup with a beatable neighbor should show if progress is being made.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20  
Lettermen returning/lost: 46/16

## DEFENSE

DE	15	Tim Brasic (6-2, 200, Sr.)
FB	41	Russ Weil (6-0, 240, Jr.)
LB	30	Pierre Thomas (5-11, 210, Sr.)
LT	69	Akim Millington (6-6, 310, Jr.)
LG	64	Martin O'Donnell (6-5, 300, Jr.)
C	67	Matt Maddox (6-3, 310, Sr.)
RG	79	James Ryan (6-5, 315, Jr.)
RT	60	Ryan McDonald (6-5, 300, So.)
TE	81	Will Davis (6-3, 235, So.)
WR	8	Daluan Warren (6-2, 205, Jr.)
WR	21	Kyle Hudson (5-11, 165, So.)

## SPECIALISTS

DE	56	Sirod Williams (6-0, 270, So.)
DT	65	Josh Norris (5-11, 270, Sr.)
DT	96	Chris Norwell (6-6, 290, Jr.)
DE	91	Derek Walker (6-4, 270, So.)
LB	43	Sam Carson II (5-1, 245, So.)
LB	44	Britt Miller (6-1, 245, So.)
LB	47	Leman (6-2, 240, Jr.)
CB	18	Arian Ball (6-1, 175, Sr.)
CB	22	Sharrif Abdullah (5-8, 170, Sr.)
SS	42	Kevin Mitchell (6-0, 200, Jr.)
FS	32	Justin Harrison (5-11, 220, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Jason Reda (6-1, 200, Jr.)
P	37	Kyle Yeaton (6-0, 180, Fr.)

BIG TEN



Predicted order of finish

## RATING THE PLAYERS:

<b>Fastest receiver</b>	Jordy Nelson, Kansas State
<b>Best hands</b>	Chase Coffman, TE, Missouri
<b>Best passing QB</b>	Bret Meyer, Iowa State
<b>Best running QB</b>	Stephen McGee, Texas A&M

<b>Most elusive RB</b>	Adrian Peterson, Oklahoma
<b>Best instincts</b>	Corey McKeon, LB, Nebraska
<b>Best athlete</b>	Hugh Charles, RB, Colorado
<b>Best under pressure</b>	Mason Crosby, K, Colorado

<b>Top NFL prospect</b>	Adrian Peterson, RB Oklahoma
<b>Top impact freshman</b>	Sergio Kindle, LB, Texas
<b>Hardest hitter</b>	Jordon Dizon, LB, Colorado
<b>Biggest underachiever</b>	Steve Hicks, RB, Iowa State

## NORTH



p. 61 STOCK UP



p. 63 STOCK STEADY



p. 65 STOCK STEADY



p. 66 STOCK STEADY



p. 67 STOCK DOWN



p. 67 STOCK STEADY

## SOUTH



p. 68 STOCK DOWN



p. 70 STOCK UP



p. 72 STOCK STEADY



p. 73 STOCK STEADY



p. 74 STOCK UP



p. 74 STOCK UP

## Young's departure for NFL leaves door at top ajar for Sooners, Huskers

By BLAIR KERKHOFF  
*The Kansas City Star*

Texas lost Young and got young at quarterback in one day, and the balance of power in the Big 12 may shift because of it.

When Vince Young said he was headed to the NFL after his junior season—a lucrative move considering he was the third selection—Texas went from preseason No. 1 to somewhere else.

The Longhorns remain the Big 12 favorite, but only barely over an Oklahoma team that should field one of the nation's top defensive units. This season, the Sooners have the advantage at quarterback now that Rhett Bomar has a year under his belt.

Texas Coach Mack Brown went into fall workouts not knowing whether his quarterback would be redshirt freshman Colt McCoy or freshman Jevan Snead.

Texas-Oklahoma, Oklahoma-Texas Same story, different year, unless Texas Tech can pull off a gadget play and sneak by both. The Red Raiders get a little better every year, and one more step of improvement means a division title.

Up North, Nebraska hasn't won a division title since 1999. That

streak should end this year. The perception of the Cornhuskers changed in their last two games, a resounding victory at division-champ Colorado and a triumph over favored Michigan in the Alamo Bowl.

No team has experienced more bad luck over the past two seasons than Iowa State, which has lost a spot in the Big 12 Championship Game on the final play of the regular season in each of the past two seasons. The Bret Meyer-to-Todd Blythe battery will be among the nation's best, but the Cyclones must overcome a difficult schedule to challenge for the division.

Dan Hawkins, the Boise State magician, arrives at Colorado and Ron Prince, the former Virginia offensive coordinator, was the surprise hire at Kansas State. The Buffs are looking for a quarterback; the Wildcats have too many.

On the improvement front, check out Baylor, which has installed a Texas Tech-like spread offense. The Bears were one victory away from a bowl game last season, their best in the Big 12 decade.

## 5 THINGS TO WATCH

**How does Texas replace Vince Young?** It doesn't. Young's talent and his leadership carried the Longhorns to a national championship, and although Young didn't win the Heisman, he stood at the end of the season as college football's MVP. Colt McCoy or Jevan Snead can't be expected to be anything like that. The leadership has to come from elsewhere.

**Is it possible for Missouri and Texas A&M to improve after losing quarterbacks who finished as school-record-holders for total offense?** Yes. Brad Smith and Reggie McNeal were tremendous talents and both were taken in the NFL Draft. Now the Tigers and Aggies will establish playmakers at other positions. Look for Missouri tight ends Martin Rucker and Chase Coffman and A&M's human bowling ball, Jevon Sneed, to become stars.

**Can Iowa State get over the hump and win a division?** It's possible, and the good news is Iowa State has division-favorite Nebraska at home. The bad news is the Cyclones get the bad end of cross-division scheduling with Texas, Oklahoma and Texas Tech on the slate.

**Oklahoma can't possibly lose four games again, can it?** Ask the offensive line. That's the key for the Sooners. Everything else seems in place, starting with an amazing defense, Heisman-quality running back in Adrian Peterson and a year older quarterback in Rhett Bomar. If the line is great, Oklahoma will be.

**Which is a greater unknown, Colorado or Kansas State?** Winners of the last six North Division titles may be battling to stay out of the basement. Give Colorado the edge in the standings because of the sideline experience of Colorado's Dan Hawkins and his staff. But Ron Prince has generated a lot of excitement in Manhattan.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

- TEXAS: Jevan Snead enters QB battle immediately.
- OKLAHOMA: Nation's top DT, Gerald McCoy, makes a great line better.
- NEBRASKA: Huskers grab DB Andre Jones from Pac-10 country.
- OKLAHOMA STATE: Pokes' haul was talk of Big 12 recruiting circles.
- TEXAS TECH: Spread offense starting to attract top talent.
- TEXAS A&M: Aggies will find room for RB Mike Goodson.
- KANSAS: In-state product Jake Sharp can fly.
- KANSAS STATE: Eleven jucos in Ron Prince's first class mean depth.
- MISSOURI: Wideout Jeremy Maclin will take advantage of more throwing.
- COLORADO: Respectable class for late-starting Dan Hawkins and staff.
- IOWA STATE: Always ranked low in Big 12, always going to bowl games.
- BAYLOR: We'll see if the new offense attracts top skill players.

## OFFENSE

<b>QB</b>	Bret Meyer, Jr., Iowa State
<b>RB</b>	Adrian Peterson, Jr., Oklahoma
<b>WR</b>	Jon Cornish, Sr., Kansas
<b>OL</b>	Mark Fenton, Sr., Colorado
<b>OL</b>	Manuel Ramirez, Sr., Texas Tech
<b>OL</b>	Aaron Brant, Sr., Iowa State
<b>OL</b>	Justin Blalock, Sr., Texas
<b>OL</b>	Adam Speiker, Jr., Missouri
<b>WR</b>	Todd Blythe, Jr., Iowa State
<b>WR</b>	Joel Filani, Sr., Texas Tech
<b>WR</b>	Jarrett Hicks, Sr., Texas Tech
<b>PK</b>	Mason Crosby, Sr., Colorado

## DEFENSE

<b>DL</b>	Larry Birdine, Sr., Oklahoma
<b>DL</b>	Adam Carriger, Jr., Nebraska
<b>DL</b>	Tim Crowder, Sr., Texas
<b>DL</b>	C.J. Ah You, Sr., Oklahoma
<b>LB</b>	Jordon Dizon, Jr., Colorado
<b>LB</b>	Rufus Alexander, Sr., Oklahoma
<b>LB</b>	Corey McKeon, Jr., Nebraska
<b>DB</b>	Michael Griffin, Sr., Texas
<b>DB</b>	Cortney Grinley, Jr., Nebraska
<b>DB</b>	Reggie Smith, So., Oklahoma
<b>DB</b>	Aqib Talib, So., Kansas
<b>P</b>	Daniel Sepulveda, Sr., Baylor

## NEBRASKA

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



**Husker Nation could be back with a vengeance, as Nebraska looks to be easy favorite in Big 12 North**

**N**ov. 12, 2005, Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb. More specific? A 40-yard field-goal attempt by freshman Jordon Congdon with Nebraska trailing Kansas State 25-24 and 1:05 remaining.

Not much was on the line, except perhaps Bill Callahan's future as the Cornhuskers' coach and the direction of the program.

The Huskers entered the next-to-last game of the regular season with five victories and were favored to grab the magic, bowl-qualifying sixth triumph against the fading Wildcats.

Nebraska needed this one desperately. A year removed from having a three-decade bowl streak end, the Huskers had shown considerable improvement in 2005. But without a winning record and postseason berth to show for it, Callahan and the man who hired him, Athletic Director Steve Pederson, might have been on their way out.

A loss would have left Nebraska 5-5 with a trip on deck to Colorado, which would win the division.

Nobody could know that the Huskers would travel to Boulder and slap the Buffaloes, or that the program would pull off its most feel-good triumph in years in the Alamo Bowl over Michigan.

All anybody knew was that Congdon needed to make this field goal.

Done

And now Nebraska marches into 2006 feeling chipper about things. That kick, those victories over Colorado and Michigan and a nice spring practice capped by 57,000 fans at the final scrimmage have left the glass half-full.

Bring on Southern Cal ... and Texas. Both NCAA finalists face the Big Red this year.

Not that Nebraska is expecting a return to the glory days of a decade or so ago, but this team really should be just as good, if not better, than last year's 8-4 bunch.

For starters, this season marks the first time since Eric Crouch's Heisman Trophy-winning season that the Huskers return their quarterback and offensive coordinator in tandem.

And if you don't think that's important, here's what quarterback Zac Taylor had to say about his first few months on campus last year after transferring from junior college: "You almost didn't know where to start with reading the playbook. It's really tough until you get coaches in the room with you or get on the practice field doing it live."

Turned out, Taylor gave Nebraska one of the grittiest seasons ever authored by a Big Red quarterback. It wasn't the school-record 2,653 passing yards or the three-game turnaround from the previous season, impressive as those accomplishments were.



PRESEASON RANK

# 1

## POWER RATINGS

## OFFENSE



## DEFENSE



## SPECIAL TEAMS



## COACHING



2005 Record.

8-4

Big 12:

4-4

(beat Michigan in the Alamo Bowl, 32-28)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Louisiana Tech	
S.9	Nicholls State	
S.16	@USC	
S.23	Troy	
S.30	Kansas	15-40
<b>1/7</b>	<b>KANSAS STATE</b>	<b>24-30 (OT)</b>
Q.14	@KANSAS STATE	27-25
Q.21	Texas	
Q.28	@OKLAHOMA STATE	
N.4	Missouri	24-41
N.11	@TEXAS A&M	
N.24	Colorado	30-3

## GAME TO WATCH \*

*Sure, the Huskers play at USC before then, but the division title is the goal, and this one will go a long way in determining it.*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 54/24

## OFFENSE

QB	13	Zac Taylor (6-2, 210, Sr.)
RB	34	Cody Glenn (6-0, 230, So.)
FB	41	Dan Todd (5-10, 235, Sr.)
LT	54	Chris Patrick (6-4, 285, Jr.)
LG	62	Andy Christensen (6-3, 300, So.)
C	50	Kurt Mann (6-4, 270, Sr.)
RG	65	Greg Austin (6-1, 290, Sr.)
RT	70	Matt Siauson (6-5, 340, So.)
TE	11	Matt Heran (6-5, 240, Sr.)
WR	83	Terrence Nunn (6-0, 185, Jr.)
WR	87	Nate Swift (6-2, 195, So.)

## DEFENSE

DE	90	Adam Carricker (6-6, 280, Sr.)
DT	54	Ola Dagunduro (6-2, 290, Sr.)
DT	94	Barry Cryer (6-2, 275, Sr.)
DE	44	Jay Moore (6-4, 270, Sr.)
SLB	34	Stewart Bradley (6-4, 240, Sr.)
MLB	13	Corey McKeon (6-1, 225, Jr.)
WLB	15	Steve Octaviano (6-0, 235, Jr.)
CB	2	Cortney Grixby (5-9, 165, Jr.)
CB	1	Zackary Bowman (6-2, 190, Sr.)
FS	30	Tierre Green (6-1, 200, Jr.)
SS	8	Andrew Shantz (6-1, 205, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	29	Jordan Congdon (5-11, 180, So.)
P	97	Dan Titchener (6-0, 195, So.)

## CORNHUSKERS

Stadium: Memorial Stadium (73,918)

LINCOLN



Taylor, guiding a West Coast offense with an inexperienced offensive line, absorbed more punishment than two quarterbacks should be allowed. He rarely got to see any of his pass completions, but he did watch plenty of clouds pass over the stadium—when he wasn't seeing stars.

Yet, Taylor missed only a handful of snaps—toward the end of the Kansas State game after suffering a concussion.

"We've got to do a better job protecting him," Callahan says.

Taylor was sacked 38 times last season, and that was only one of Nebraska's problems on offense. The Huskers finished 107th nationally in rushing and 96th for total offense. It's worth noting that Nebraska went for 497 yards against Colorado and 318 (including 161 on the ground) against Michigan.

The Huskers have talented I-backs in Marlon Lucky and Cody Glenn, who had a terrific spring. Wideouts Nate Swift and Terrence Nunn combined for 88 receptions, and a big bonus will be the return

**Head coach: Bill Callahan, 3rd year (13-10)**

**Career record: 13-10**

**Assistant coaches:** Kevin Cosgrove (def coord./LBs), Jay Norvell (off coord./QBs), John Blake (def line), Bill Busch (safeties/special teams coord.), Phil Elmessian (CBs), Ted Gilmore (WRs), Randy Jordan (RBs), Dennis Wagner (off line), Shawn Watson (TEs/recruiting coord.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

1 D.J. Jones, OL, 6-5, 300  
*Massive blocker top prep recruit.*

2 Steven Allen, LB, 6-2, 230

*One of nine junior-college signees.*

3 Corey Young, DB, 6-0, 190

*In-state prospect has cover skills.*

4 Pierre Allen, DE, 6-5, 222

*Colorado product could contribute.*

5 Andre Jones, DB, 6-0, 195

*Fresno, Calif., athlete given five stars by Rivals.com.*



## 2005 TEAM STATS -----

	TEAM STATISTICS	NEBRASKA	OPP.
SCORING	296	252	
Points Per Game	24.7	21.0	
FIRST DOWNS	221	217	
Rushing	71	85	
Passing	124	111	
Penalty	26	21	
RUSHING YARDAGE	1152	1491	
Yards gained rushing	1551	2055	
Yards lost rushing	399	564	
Rushing Attempts	420	459	
Average Per Rush	2.7	3.2	
Average Per Game	96.0	124.2	
TDS Rushing	10	14	
PASSING YARDAGE	2692	2495	
Att-Cmp-Int	444-239-13	415-212-13	
Average Per Pass	6.1	6.0	
Average Per Catch	11.3	11.8	
Average Per Game	224.3	207.9	
TDS Passing	20	13	
TOTAL OFFENSE	3844	3986	
Total Plays	864	824	
Average Per Play	4.4	4.6	
Average Per Game	320.3	332.2	
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	31-611	47-862	
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	50-647	31-273	
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-187	13-209	
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.7	18.3	
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	12.9	8.8	
INT RETURN AVERAGE	14.4	16.1	
FUMBLES-LOST	27-11	31-9	
PENALTIES-YARDS	89-693	85-719	
Average Per Game	57.8	59.9	
PUNTS-YARDS	72-3302	80-3425	
Average Per Punt	45.9	42.8	
Nel punt average	39.8	33.5	
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:56	30:04	
3RD-DOWN CONV.	60/182	56/191	
3rd-Down Pct	33%	29%	
4TH-DOWN CONV.	7/19	13/21	
4th-Down Pct	37%	62%	
SACKS BY-YARDS	50-381	38-253	
MISC. YARDS	142	9	
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	34	30	
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	19-23	13-25	
PAT-ATTEMPTS	31-32	27-29	
ATTENDANCE	542397	208079	
Games/Avg Per Game	7/77485	4/52020	
Neutral Site Games		1/62000	

SCORE	QTR	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	YARD
Nebraska		49	98	67	68	14	296
Opponent		72	53	63	57	7	252

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS -----

## OFFENSE

## PASSING

Zac Taylor

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	115.94	430-237-12	55.1	2653	19	221.1

Harrison Beck

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
2	7.64	10-1-1	10.0	21	0	10.5

RUSHING

GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Cory Ross	12	225	882	3.9	5
Cody Glenn	7	45	131	2.9	4
Marlon Lucky	12	43	129	3.0	0

RECEIVING

GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Nate Swift	12	45	641	14.2	7
Terrence Nunn	12	43	495	11.5	7
Cory Ross	12	43	392	9.1	3

## DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Corey McKeon	12	61	37	98
Dan Bullocks	12	46	37	83
Bo Ruud	12	41	39	80

## SACKS

GP	No.	Yds.
Adam Carriger	12	9.5
Corey McKeon	12	7.0
Barry Turner	12	6.0

## INTERCEPTIONS

No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Corey McKeon	3	57	19.0
Zackary Bowman	2	0	0.0
Stewart Bradley	1	43	43.0

of tight end Matt Herian. He'll be back for the first time after breaking his leg against Missouri two years ago.

But the line holds the key to improvement. Three players who started late last season—tackles Matt Slauson, Chris Patrick and Lydon Murtha—now have experience. The Huskers got through spring without center Kurt Mann, who was recovering from shoulder surgery. Greg Austin, who started at left guard, took the snaps.

The group has to be better if Nebraska is to win the division.

One thing's for sure: The line had trouble with the defensive front in spring. Nebraska's front seven, including the three linebackers, are the team's strength.

Corey McKeon enjoyed a breakout season at middle linebacker, leading the team with 98 tackles and 22 tackles for loss. Flanking him are Bo Ruud and Stewart Bradley.

The linebacking group also includes Steve Octavien, who had won the starting job last August only to suffer a broke leg in the opener. Octavien and Ruud, who was held out of contact drills in the spring to recover from a broken arm, will battle for the start this fall. Both should see plenty of action.

Also in the mix is Lance Brandenburgh, who had an outstanding Alamo Bowl in his only start.

The Huskers are set at end with Adam Carriger and Jay Moore

as starters and Barry Turner, coming off a terrific freshman season, providing the rotation.

Tackle is set for fresh faces with the departure of LeKevin Smith and Titus Adams. The slots are up for grabs among Ola Dagunduro, Barry Cryer, Ty Steinkuhler and Ndamukong Suh, a 6-4, 315-pound nose tackle who wowed coaches with his physical ability during the offseason.

The Huskers lost a good strong safety in Daniel Bullocks, but the corners are set with returning starters Cortney Grixby and Zack Bowman, who replaced Teirre Green at midseason. Green moved to safety, where he could start.

One of the biggest replacement chores is finding a successor to punter Sam Koch. The Big 12 has produced All-Americans over the past two seasons in Baylor's Daniel Sepulveda and Colorado's John Torp, but Koch finished with a better average than both of them last year, leading the league with a 46.5-yard average.

The job is so wide open that an Omaha high school soccer player, Alex Henery, passed up a soccer scholarship to Creighton to give punting at Nebraska a shot.

The return game is in good shape and was one of the more improved areas for the Huskers last season. Nunn led the Big 12 in punt returns with an 18.3-yard average. Lucky averaged nearly 21 yards per kickoff return, and the Huskers may have found another candidate in the spring game when reserve cornerback Titus Brothers returned a kick 100 yards for a touchdown.

As for placekicking, Congdon was terrific, making 19 of 23 field goals and hitting 31 straight extra points after missing his first one. Besides, this was the kicker who saved a season and perhaps a career or two with one pressure boot. Nebraska is in good shape here, and in many other places. The Huskers should be good enough to end a seven-year drought and represent the North in the Big 12 Championship Game.

## NEXT BIG THING

## MARLON LUCKY, sophomore running back

Marlon Lucky could have stayed close to home and possibly become USC's next feature back. Instead, he chose to travel to the Midwest and help rebuild a once-dominant college football program.

And after playing sparingly in his freshman year at Nebraska, this could be the season Lucky shows why he was rated by several publications as the No. 2 overall running back of the 2004 national recruiting class.

Lucky was a top tailback at North Hollywood High, where he had 4,881 yards and 81 touchdowns in three seasons. He had scholarship offers from both the Trojans and Washington, but made just one official visit—more than 1,500 miles away, to Lincoln. Soon after that trip, he committed to Nebraska.

"I'm not really an L.A. boy," Lucky told *The Lincoln Journal-Star* when he signed with the Cornhuskers last May.

Lucky was on the field little last season, but

was the team's leading kick returner, averaging 20.5 yards an attempt. He also rushed for 129 yards and averaged 3.0 yards a carry.

With 2005 leading rusher Cory Ross now graduated, the starting tailback slot will be either Lucky or fellow sophomore Cody Glenn. But no matter who's in for the first play of the game, both tailbacks will get numerous reps all season in Coach Bill Callahan's intricate West Coast offense.

The Cornhuskers' newest "Thunder and Lightning" duo shined in Nebraska's spring game, but it was Lucky who led the team with two rushing touchdowns. He carried the ball 15 times for 84 yards, while Glenn had 16 carries for 98 yards.

"We featured more of a draw scheme with Marlon," Callahan says. "He has good vision, great vision. We used a counter game with Marlon as well."

—Matt McKenzie

## IOWA STATE

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	7
2004	7
2003	2
2002	7
2001	7

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL    \* NATIONAL TITLE

## Led by QB Meyer, Cyclones' offense will throw caution to the wind in North

The first time was bad enough. When it happened again, Iowa State Coach Dan McCarney had to wonder if the college football gods were punishing him.

For the last two years, the Cyclones have been denied a chance to play in the Big 12 Championship Game because they lost games on the final play of the final day of the regular season.

Think about that. A team is on the field for, what, 2,000 or so snaps in a season, and in each of the last two years Iowa State lost a huge prize because of the last one.

There's no comparing the hurt because both were devastating, but the one in 2004 may have tortured the soul a little more. On that day, the Cyclones were playing underdog Missouri in Ames, missed a short field goal that could have won it in regulation and went for a touchdown pass that would have won it in overtime. But the ball was picked off in the end zone.

Iowa State would have won the North Division outright with a victory that day.

Last year, the game was at Kansas and the Jayhawks were fighting to become bowl-eligible. But the Cyclones led by a touchdown with less than two minutes remaining when Kansas forced the extra period and Iowa State missed a long field-goal try in overtime.

The Jayhawks made their kick and down went Iowa State. For the second year in a row, Colorado clinched the division championship while watching the Cyclones lose on television.

"Rarely in life do you get second opportunities like this," McCarney mulled afterwards. "Sometimes you wait 10, 15, 20 or 30 years for a second opportunity like we got."

But mostly because of an offense that should be the best in the Big 12 North, Iowa State may not have to wait at all for another chance at a division title.

Few outside of Ames picked the Cyclones to be as successful as they've been over the past two seasons. This year is different. Iowa State enters this fall with some expectations.

It's been a while since anything less than a bowl game and a challenge for the division will be viewed as a disappointment. But after playing in five bowl games over the past six years and coming this close to the top, that's where Iowa State stands.

"I would be very disappointed if we were not in the thick of the race for first [in the division]," McCarney says. "I want this program on such a firm foundation that we can continue to make a run at the Big 12 North championship every year, which means you're making a run at the Big 12 championship."



PRESEASON RANK.

#2

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★	★★	★★★	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
COACHING	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★

2005 Record:	Big 12:
7-5	4-4
(lost to TCU in the Houston Bowl, 27-24)	

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
8/31	Toledo	
9/9	UNLV	
<b>9/16</b>	<b>@IOWA</b>	<b>23-3</b>
9/23	@TEXAS	
9/30	Northern Iowa	
10/7	Nebraska	20-27 (OT)
10/14	@OKLAHOMA	
10/21	Texas Tech	
10/28	@KANSAS STATE	45-17
11/4	Kansas	21-24 (OT)
11/11	@COLORADO	30-16
11/18	Missouri	24-27 (OT)

## \* GAME TO WATCH \*

*There are plenty of high profile games early for the Cyclones, but this is the most meaningful. Last year's victory over the Hawkeyes was one of the most satisfying in Dan McCarney's tenure.*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 28/21

## OFFENSE

QB	7	Bret Meyer (6-3, 208, r-Jr.)
RB	27	Steve Hicks (6-1, 212, r-Sr.)
FB	31	Ryan Kock (6-1, 239, r-Sr.)
LT	69	Scott Fisher (6-7, 335, r-Sr.)
LG	70	Tom Schmeling (6-3, 290, r-So.)
C	63	Scott Stephenson (6-4, 305, r-Sr.)
RG	77	Paul Fisher (6-7, 325, r-Sr.)
RT	75	Aaron Brant (6-7, 320, Sr.)
TE	41	Ben Barkema (6-3, 245, r-Jr.)
WR	8	Austin Flynn (6-1, 200, r-Sr.)
WR	1	Todd Blythe (6-5, 210, r-Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	47	Kurtis Taylor (6-3, 250, Jr.)
NG	93	Bryce Braaksma (6-4, 260, r-Jr.)
DT	52	Brent Curvey (6-0, 305, Sr.)
RUS	40	Shawn Moorehead (6-4, 250, r-Sr.)
SLB	17	Tyrone McKenzie (6-2, 230, r-So.)
MLB	10	Adam Carper (6-3, 225, r-So.)
WLB	15	Alvin Bowen (6-4, 220, r-Jr.)
CB	4	DeAndre Jackson (6-0, 192, r-Sr.)
CB	18	Chris Singleton (5-10, 191, So.)
FS	16	Jon Banks (6-3, 217, r-Jr.)
SS	2	James Smith (5-8, 191, r-Fr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	37	Bret Culbertson (6-6, 179, Jr.)
P	49	Michael Brandner (6-1, 198, r-Fr.)

## CYCLONES

Stadium: Jack Trice Stadium (45,814)



"We've come a long way and we've taken this program to place where it's never been. Yet there's a lot of places where we can improve."

More on the defense later.

The Cyclones will compete because they can move the chains and score with anybody in the North Division. Quarterback Bret Meyer is a junior who will be a third-year starter. By the time he's finished, he should hold all of ISU's career passing records. He already stands fourth in career passing yards.

Meyer's 2,867 throwing yards last season were the second best ever by an Iowa State quarterback. He completed 61.7 percent of his passes and tossed 19 touchdowns to 10 interceptions.

"Bret has accomplished a lot," McCarney says. "Now he has a better grasp of the big picture and a greater understanding of what we're trying to do. He has a chance to have a memorable career at Iowa State."

Iowa State's previous full-time starting quarterbacks—Seneca Wallace and Sage Rosenfels—are in the NFL. Meyer, with a strong arm and the ability to throw on the run, could be next.

Meyer's targets are some of the best in the Big 12. Todd Blythe, a 6-5 junior, came in with Meyer and they've been playing catch ever since. Blythe caught 51 passes for a 19.6-yard average and nine

**Head coach: Dan McCarney, 12th year (52-77)**

**Career record: 52-77**

**Assistant coaches:** Tony Alford (asst. head coach/RBs), Terry Allen (assoc. head coach/TEs), Barney Cotton (off. coord./off. line), John Skladany (def. coord./LBs), Chris Ash (secondary), DeMontie Cross (OLBs), Todd Fitch (QBs), Mike Grant (WRs), Mike Nelson (def. line), Brian Schneider (TEs/special teams coord.), Shawn Simms (OLBs)

## RATING THE RECRUTS

**Austen Arnowd, 6-2, 205**

*In-state prospect has big upside.*

**Zac Sandvig, DB, 5-11, 180**

*Touted prep athlete needs a position.*

**Matt Hulbert, OL, 6-6, 280**

*Rangy blocker is a solid in-state prospect.*

**Derrick Montgomery, WR, 6-1, 175**

*Texas product should contribute.*

**John Richardson, LB, 6-1, 245**

*Another Lone Star State import.*



## 2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM BASIC	
SCORING	339
Points Per Game	28.2
FIRST DOWNS	230
Rushing	83
Passing	124
Penalty	25
RUSHING YARDAGE	1328
Yards gained rushing	1687
Yards lost rushing	359
Rushing Attempts	491
Average Per Rush	2.7
Average Per Game	110.7
TDS Rushing	20
PASSING YARDAGE	2876
Att-Cmp-Int	368-227-10
Average Per Pass	7.8
Average Per Catch	12.7
Average Per Game	239.7
TDS Passing	19
TOTAL OFFENSE	4204
Total Plays	859
Average Per Play	4.9
Average Per Game	350.3
KICK RETURNS, #-YDS	31-725
PUNT RETURNS, #-YDS	26-223
INT RETURNS, #-YDS	22-239
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.4
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	8.6
INT RETURN AVERAGE	10.9
FUMBLES-LOST	15-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	64-567
Average Per Game	47.2
PUNTS-YARDS	70-2901
Average Per Punt	41.4
Net punt average	36.6
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME	31:40
3RD-DOWN CONV.	69/181
3rd-Down Pct	38%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/13
4th-Down Pct	69%
SACKS BY-YARDS	27-182
MISC YARDS	65
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	42
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	14-20
PAT-ATTEMPTS	39-41
ATTENDANCE	280232
Games/Avg Per Game	6/46705
Neutral Site Games	1/37286

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE	
PASSING	
Bret Meyer	
GP	Effic.
12	138.94
368-227-10	61.7
2876	19
239.7	
RUSHING	
Stevie Hicks	9
149	545
3.7	4
60.6	
Greg Coleman	10
116	419
3.6	2
41.9	
Ryan Kock	12
54	129
2.4	13
10.8	
RECEIVING	
Austin Flynn	12
56	624
11.1	3
52.0	
Todd Blythe	12
51	1000
19.6	9
83.3	
Jon Davis	12
41	319
7.8	2
26.5	
DEFENSE	
TACKLES	
Matt Robertson	12
47	56
103	
Tim Dobbins	12
48	55
103	
Jason Berryman	12
38	34
72	
SACKS	
Jason Berryman	12
75	42
Brent Curvey	12
6.5	54
Shawn Moorehead	12
5.5	39
INTERCEPTIONS	
No.	Yds.
DeAndre Jackson	5
18	3.6
0	
LaMarcus Hucks	5
44	8.8
1	
Nik Moser	4
19	4.8
0	

touchdowns last season. Blythe has great hops and a knack for winning the jump balls, but he needs to work on his blocking skills to become a complete player.

Blythe got off to a slow start last year, but came on strong and was named NCAA Player of the Week after eight receptions for 214 yards and four touchdowns at Texas A&M.

McCarney never tires of telling the story of the Cyclones' top receiver, Austin Flynn. He came to the program as a quarterback, the position he'd played his whole life.

But after a freshman season in which he and ISU struggled to an 0-8 league finish, McCarney told Flynn he could battle the freshman Meyer the next season. Flynn accepted the challenge, and lost.

"Coach said the thinking was Bret would give our team the best opportunity to win, and we're going with him until he proves us wrong," Flynn recalls. "I had a few decisions to make, but what it came down to is I wanted to be part of this team."

To wide receiver he went, a position Flynn had never played. So what happens? He catches 56 balls to become the team's top receiver.

That's how you become a coach's favorite.

"His unselfishness, his work ethic, his leadership, heart, character, toughness to start at that position and excel at it like he did makes him the ultimate yard dog and he's a coach's dream," McCarney says of Flynn.

If only Iowa State could feel as good about its running game. Through the lean years of McCarney's tenure, the Cyclones could always be counted on for a 1,000-yard rusher—even a 2,000-yard back in Troy Davis.

Last year, Stevie Hicks led the team with 545 yards after topping 1,000 the previous year. He carried a nagging groin injury with him most of the season, and his value was reflected in the Cyclones' 6-2 record when Hicks started.

He may not be known nationally yet, but mention the name of Bret Meyer around the Big 12 and opposing defensive coordinators know they are in for a long afternoon.

Meyer is coming off a season in which he threw for 2,876 yards with 19 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. Going into his junior season, Meyer has 5,256 yards of total offense. That's a better career mark than any Cyclone player other than current NFL player Seneca Wallace (6,201). If Meyer can stay healthy the next two seasons, he will shatter Wallace's numbers.

Iowa State Coach Dan McCarney knows that if the Cyclones are going to contend in the Big 12 North this season, they will be led by their offense. The defense is rebuilding. McCarney has a difficult time containing himself when it comes to discussing Meyer.

"He was just so much better as a sophomore than he was as a freshman," McCarney says. "We don't have to be satisfied with that improvement. If he can improve that much his freshman to sophomore year, why not do that

But the overall production wasn't there. Iowa State finished 96th nationally in rushing offense.

Hicks is back and so is fullback Ryan Kock, who collected 129 yards on 54 attempts for a paltry 2.4 average. Except, many of his carries came on third- and short or goal-line situations and Kock powered into the end zone 13 times.

The Cyclones' offensive line will be the most experienced in the Big 12. Iowa State could start five seniors, including 6-7, 320-pound Aaron Brant. He's started 33 career games. Center Scott Stephenson, one of the league's best, was held out of spring scrimmages while recovering from shoulder surgery.

Defense is the Cyclones' concern. Last year's unit was the best in McCarney's 11 seasons at Ames. The group led the nation in turnover margin and topped the Big 12 with 22 interceptions.

Iowa State will build up front around tackle Brent Curvey, a 305-pound gap-filler, and end Shawn Moorehead, a former walk-on who has become a talented pass rusher.

Curvey and Moorhead are the only returning starters on defense after two others—tackle Jason Berryman and linebacker Matt Robertson—were kicked off the team. Berryman, already given a second chance by the program, violated team rules and was tossed. Robertson was dismissed for testing positive for a banned nutritional supplement.

That left spring practice wide-open for position battles and one player stepping up was James Smith at strong safety. He's only 5-8, but his speed and aggressive play won over the staff.

Other positions won in the spring: Tyrone McKenzie, a transfer from Michigan State, claimed one linebacking spot, while Adam Carper, a sophomore, holds down another.

Last year, the Cyclones won defensive battles. This year they may have to win shootouts.

## NEXT BIG THING

## BRET MEYER, junior quarterback

from his sophomore to junior year and then next year from his junior to senior season? I know that he can get even better and I believe that he will because of his pride, work ethic and accountability as a leader on this football team."

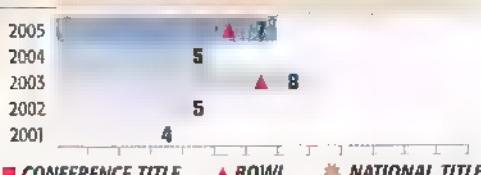
Meyer is not the kind of quarterback who can scare opposing defenses with his running ability—he averaged 6.9 yards per carry a year ago. However, he has the ability to escape the first wave of the pass rush and buy time with his feet. That allows him to find open receivers in the late stages of plays.

"[Bret] is just a great student of the game now," McCarney says. "He has a grasp of the big picture. Once you see that switch go on in a quarterback—when they really have an understanding—they get that look in their eye, and I have seen it with Bret."

If McCarney sees it again this season, the Cyclones may find themselves at the top of the Big 12 North.

—Steve Silverman

# MISSOURI

**5-YEAR WINS TREND**


## With Mr. Smith gone to the NFL, Tigers plan to spread offense around

No more BS for Missouri football, as in Brad Smith.

The most productive player in school history has moved on and he couldn't have scripted a better ending. The Tigers erased a 21-point deficit to South Carolina to win the Independence Bowl, sending Smith out a winner.

The challenge for Missouri is how to redistribute Smith's production. After all, Smith rolled up 13,088 total yards and became the first player in Division I-A history to pass for 8,000 yards and rush for 4,000 in a career.

"Our next quarterback will be more of a distributor," Tigers Coach Gary Pinkel says. "We'll get the ball in other people's hands more."

There appears to be plenty of good hands people for Missouri, starting with the tight ends. No program in the country may have a better set than Martin Rucker and Chase Coffman, who have each been named Freshman All-Americans.

Rucker has been the starter and was the Tigers' big-play receiver with a team-leading 12.1-yard average on 47 receptions last year.

The number of catches matched Coffman for the team lead. Coffman's four touchdowns also tied for the team high. Both have good hands, especially Coffman, and don't be surprised to see them both on the field at the same time with one lining up wide.

The Tigers lost an all-time Mizzou top-10 wide receiver in Sean Coffey, but have Will Franklin and Brad Ekwerekwu back. The duo combined for 72 receptions and six touchdowns last season. The third receiver will be Tommy Saunders, a former walk-on who has impressed coaches with his work ethic and delivered one of the signature plays of last season, a diving catch for the first touchdown against Nebraska.

It could be a breakout year at tailback, but which one? The top four ground-gainers at the position are back, including juniors Marcus Woods and Tony Temple, who combined for 912 yards and six touchdowns. Woods' 93 attempts led the tailback group, but that was 136 chances fewer than Smith.

Now you know the tight ends, wide receivers and running backs who should be getting more attempts. Who will be getting less? Quarterback Chase Daniel. But this is not a bad thing.

Daniel is ready for the role. Pinkel called him the best-prepared freshman he had coached last season, and Daniel proved his value throughout the season in relief appearances. He appeared in 10 games and completed 57.6 percent of his throws for 347 yards and a touchdown.



PRESEASON RANK:

#3

**POWER RATINGS**

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★

2005 Record: 7-5 Big 12: 4-4

(beat South Carolina in the Independence Bowl, 38-31)

**2006 SCHEDULE**

S.2	Murray State	
S.9	Mississippi	
S.16	@NEW MEXICO	35-45
S.23	Ohio	12-41
S.30	Colorado	
O.7	@TEXAS TECH	
O.14	@TEXAS A&M	
O.21	Kansas State	28-36
O.28	Oklahoma	
N.4	NEBRASKA	41-39
N.18	@IOWA STATE	27-24 (OT)
N.25	Kansas	3-13

**\* GAME TO WATCH \***

The Tigers' chances for the division title could be determined in Lincoln, where Missouri hasn't won since 1978.

**PROJECTED STARTERS**

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/19

**OFFENSE**

QB	10	Chase Daniel (6-1, 220, So.)
TB	20	Marcus Woods (5-8, 195, Jr.)
LT	79	Tyler Luellen (6-6, 300, Jr.)
LG	71	Monte Wyrick (6-5, 320, Jr.)
C	77	Adam Speier (6-2, 310, Jr.)
RG	55	Mike Cook (6-2, 315, Sr.)
RT	74	Joel Clinger (6-6, 315, Sr.)
TE	82	Martin Rucker (6-5, 245, Jr.)
WR	3	Will Franklin (6-2, 205, Jr.)
WR	86	Brad Ekwerekwu (6-4, 215, Sr.)
WR	84	Tommy Saunders (6-0, 210, So.)

**DEFENSE**

DE	39	Brian Smith (6-4, 230, Sr.)
DT	99	Lorenzo Williams (6-2, 285, Jr.)
NT	92	Jamar Smith (6-1, 280, Sr.)
DE	38	Stryker Sulak (6-4, 245, So.)
SLB	15	Marcus Bacon (6-2, 225, Sr.)
MLB	33	Derrick Harrington (6-4, 240, Sr.)
WLB	5	Van Alexander (6-0, 230, So.)
CB	11	Darnell Terrell (6-2, 195, Jr.)
CB	2	Domonique Johnson (6-2, 190, So.)
FS	8	David Overstreet (6-0, 210, Sr.)
SS	19	Brandon Massey (6-1, 200, Sr.)

**SPECIALISTS**

PK	90	Adam Crossett (6-3, 225, Jr.)
P	90	Adam Crossett (6-3, 225, Jr.)

# TIGERS

Stadium: Memorial Stadium/Faurot Field (68,349)

One appearance stood out. The Tigers trailed by 10 when Smith went to the sideline in the fourth quarter against Iowa State. In came Daniel, who completed 16 of 23 passes for 185 yards and a score to force overtime in a Missouri victory.

Without the triumph, the Tigers wouldn't have become bowl-eligible.

Daniel and reserve quarterbacks Brad Coleman, a senior, and Chase Patton (sophomore) should benefit from an experienced offensive line. However, the only loss, All-Big 12 guard Tony Palmer, is a big one.

But back are four players who started at least 11 games, including center Adam Speier. Also returning are tackles Joel Clinger and Tyler Luellen and guard Mike Cook. Monte Wyrick, a 320-pound junior, is slated to replace Palmer.

Prospects are strong for Missouri's best defense in Pinkel's six seasons. The line returns nearly intact. End Brian Smith already holds the school record for career sacks with 24, and he led the team with 17 tackles for loss last season.

At the other end, freshman Stryker Sulak, finished a season that Xzavie Jackson started. Sulak had four sacks, Jackson six. In the middle, Lorenzo Williams and Jamar Smith combined for nine sacks.

The big loss at linebacker is Derrick Ming, but middle 'backer Dedrick Harrington and strong-side man Marcus Bacon give the Tigers plenty of experienced talent. Van Alexander gets first crack at Ming's weakside position.

The secondary is where Missouri has its greatest rebuilding task. Three starters are gone, with strong safety David Overstreet moving to free look. Look for Brandon Massey to shift into Overstreet's old spot, while several candidates are gunning for the corner spots.

Junior Adam Crossett handled all of the Tigers' kicking duties last season and finished the season with an exclamation point, boomerang a 50-yard field goal and averaging 45.8 yards per punt in the Independence Bowl.

**Head coach: Gary Pinkel, 6th year (29-30)**

**Career record: 102-67-3**

**Assistant coaches:** Dave Christensen (asst. head coach/off. coord./off. line), Matt Eberflus (def. coord./safeties), Cornell Ford (CRs), Andy Hill (WRs), Brian Jones (RBs), Craig Kuligowski (def. line), Dave Steckel (LBs), Bruce Walker (TEs/asst. off. line), David Yost (QBs/recruiting coord.)

**RATING THE RECRUITS**

**1 Castine Bridges, DB, 6-2, 195**  
Best of seven junior-college signees.

**2 Tim Barnes, OL, 6-4, 310**  
Solid blocker who could play early.

**3 Cornelius Brown, DB, 6-0, 200**  
Fills need for secondary help.

**4 Marquis Booker, LB, 6-1, 235**  
Oklahoma product from top prep program.

**5 Jeremy Maclin, WR, 6-1, 185**  
Touted prep receiver with skills.

## KANSAS

## Big 12 brother act makes stop in Lawrence, where new QB Meier should be the main attraction

**G**et through the middle of the schedule, and let's see what happens.

That was the sense entering Kansas' 2005 season, when the Jayhawks were looking at four games away from Lawrence against chief rivals or division favorites. Kansas dropped them all, but the team came through in good spirits.

Victories in three of the final four regular-season games, including a first triumph over Nebraska since 1968, sent the Jayhawks bowling for the second time in three years, and now Kansas finds itself in a good place.

This team can become the first in program history to follow a bowl season with a bowl season.

Even with a new starting quarterback and eight new defensive starters?

Yes, Coach Mark Mangino insists.

The Jayhawks found answers in the spring. Kerry Meier was so impressive at quarterback that Mangino saw no reason to create any confusion entering fall camp when he named him the starter.

Meier, a redshirt freshman, got the nod over senior Adam Barmann, who may end up taking some snaps at tight end.

"You can see his poise," Mangino says of Meier. "We have a lot of work to do, but I really like where we are with him."

Meier is the younger brother of Kansas State quarterback Dylan Meier, who's fighting for a starting job with the Wildcats. Shad Meier, a tight end who wrapped up his K-State career in 2000, is beginning his sixth NFL season.

Kerry Meier picked Kansas to forge a separate identity, and he'll get that chance after an impressive spring. In the final scrimmage, Meier went 16-for-28 for 184 yards and three touchdowns.

One of the surprises of spring was the play of reserve quarterback Todd Reesing, who may have worked his way into the top backup spot at QB. Reesing, a freshman, put up good numbers against the first-team defense.

The running game will be in the able hands of Jon Cornish, who could be the breakout running back in the Big 12. Cornish led the Jayhawks in rushing with 780 yards and was named the team's offensive MVP. His 72-yard touchdown run against

### RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** *Youngster Akins, OL, 6-4, 205*  
Touted junior-college line prospect

**2** *Phillip Strozier, DB, 6-0, 190*  
Solid athlete from top state program.

**3** *Sal Capra, LB, 6-3, 245*  
In-state prep product has potential.

**4** *Xavier Rambo, WR, 6-0, 185*  
Honed skills in competitive Texas prep ranks.

**5** *Tertavian Ingram, WR, 6-0, 181*  
Athletic wideout from Florida.



PRESEASON RANK:

#4

### POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	○	○	○
DEFENSE	○	○	○
SPECIAL TEAMS	○	○	○
COACHING	○	○	○

2005 Record:

7-5

Big 12:

3-5

(beat Houston in the Fort Worth Bowl, 42-13)

### 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
9/2	Northwestern State	
9/9	Louisiana-Monroe	
9/16	@TOLEDO	
9/23	South Florida	
9/30	@NEBRASKA	40-15
10/7	Texas A&M	
10/14	Oklahoma State	
10/21	@Baylor	
10/28	Colorado	13-44
11/4	@IOWA STATE	24-21 (OT)
11/18	Kansas State	3-12

### N.25 @MISSOURI 13-3

#### GAME TO WATCH

The game moves back to the end of the schedule where it belongs. A bowl game could be on the line for both teams.

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11  
Lettermen returning/lost: 40/19

#### OFFENSE

QB	10	Kerry Meier (6-3, 210, r-Fr.)
RB	29	Jon Cornish (6-0, 205, r-Sr.)
FB	35	B. McAnderson (6-0, 235, r-Jr.)
LT	65	Cesar Rodriguez (6-7, 286, r Jr.)
LG	77	Bob Whitaker (6-5, 317, r-Sr.)
C	74	David Ochoa (6-4, 285, r-Sr.)
RG	50	Ryan Cantrell (6-3, 285, r-So.)
RT	78	Anthony Collins (6-6, 285, r-So.)
TE	85	Derek Fine (6-3, 245, r-Jr.)
WR	86	Marcus Henry (6-4, 200, Jr.)
WR	6	Brian Murph (6-1, 190, Sr.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	92	Rodney Allen (6-3, 280, Sr.)
DT	91	Wayne Wilder (6-3, 295, Sr.)
OT	93	James McClinton (6-1, 283, Jr.)
DE	98	Paul Como (6-2, 248, Sr.)
OLB	37	Joe Mortensen (6-2, 245, r-So.)
MLB	40	Mike Rivera (6-3, 250, r-So.)
DLB	12	James Holt (6-3, 200, So.)
CB	3	Aqib Talib (6-2, 180, r-So.)
CB	23	Blake Buelter (6-0, 175, Jr.)
FS	25	Darrell Stuckey (6-1, 183, r-Fr.)
SS	24	Jerome Kemp (5-10, 200, r-Sr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	39	Scott Webb (5-11, 180, Jr.)
P	15	Kyle Tucker (6-2, 205, Jr.)

## JAYHAWKS

Stadium: Memorial Stadium (50,071)

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	8
2003	8
2002	2
2001	3

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL \* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Mark Mangino, 5th year (19-29)

Career record: 19-29

Assistant coaches: Nick Quartaro (assoc. head coach/off. coord./QBs), Bill Young (def. coord./def. line), Brandon Blaney (recruiting coord./TEs), Clint Bowen (co-def. coord./safeties), Ernest Collins (special teams coord./CBs); Mike Mallory (LBs), Earle Mosley (RBs), John Reagan (off. line/run game coord.), Tim Beck (WRs)

Nebraska served as the game's highlight play, and he turned shovel passes into two touchdowns against Houston in the Fort Worth Bowl victory.

Nearly all the wide receivers return, led by Brian Murph, who caught 33 passes for 368 yards and two touchdowns. Murph also may get more looks as a return specialist after going 85 yards on a punt against Houston, his only return attempt of the season.

Marcus Henry (17 catches, 183 yards) and former quarterback Marcus Herford have big-play ability.

Three full-time starters, led by center David Ochoa, two part-time starters and a handful of other letter-winners return on the line, as well as tight ends Derek Fine and Russell Brorson.

The offense can't help but be better. The Jayhawks struggled mightily at times last year, at one point going nearly 10 quarters without a touchdown. But starting with the 40-point outburst against the Cornhuskers, Kansas began to find an offensive stride that Mangino hopes carries into this year.

Defense saved the Jayhawks in 2005. The linebacking trio of Nick Reid, Kevin Kane and Banks Floodman were among the nation's best. So was defensive end Charlton Keith. They all helped Kansas rank third nationally against the run.

The three returning starters have all-conference ability and cornerback Aqib Talib should be one of the best players in the Big 12. Senior Jerome Kemp is back at strong safety, and freshman free safety Darrell Stuckey earned a starting spot with an impressive spring.

Mangino doesn't believe the Jayhawks will drop much at linebacker. Middle linebacker Mike Rivera played in all 12 games last season and was one of the team's better special-teams players. With excellent springs, Joe Mortensen and James Holt earned starting spots.

Junior tackle James McClinton is the lone returning starter up front, and he'll be joined by senior ends Rodney Allen and Paul Como and senior tackle Wayne Wilder.

Placekicker Scott Webb and punter Kyle Tucker return to their jobs, giving the Jayhawks reliability in the kicking game.

It adds up to optimism in Lawrence, which usually isn't the case when Kansas tries to build some momentum after a bowl season.

# COLORADO BUFFALOES

**2005 Record:** 7-6 overall, 5-3 Big 12  
(lost to Clemson in the Champs Sports Bowl, 19-10)

The parachute opened, and Dan Hawkins lived to coach Colorado for another day in the spring.

Skydiving "isn't something I aspire to do every day," Hawkins says. "That was something of a gut-check."

Which is where Colorado is today. Winning the North Division four of the last five years wasn't good enough for Gary Barnett to keep his job. The Buffs were drilled by Texas in the league title game and Barnett had become a polarizing figure in an athletic department rocked by scandal.

Enter Hawkins, who went 53-10 with four WAC titles in five seasons at Boise State, and his different ways. One day, he had players slide on their bellies in the snow to determine whether the offense or defense would run sprints. Another day he ordered up a seven-on-seven passing drill, only with linemen in the skill positions and skill players on the line.

"I want them to come out with a sense of wonderment," Hawkins says.

Now the wonder is how "Hawk Ball" will translate in Big 12 play. Steady quarterback Joel Klatt has moved on and the position is the team's biggest question mark. Juniors Bernard Jackson and Brian White or senior James Cox will get the call.

Hugh Charles looks for another big year after rushing for 1,089 yards as a sophomore. The play of senior running back Mell Holliday in the spring adds depth to the position.

Dusty Sprague, who caught 44 passes last season, leads the receiver group. But the Buffs will miss a pair of tight ends taken in the NFL Draft, Joe Klopfenstein and Quinn Sypniewski. Center Mark Fenton returns as an All-Big 12 choice.

Linebackers Thaddeus Washington and Jordon Dizon are two of the league's best. Brad Jones will step in for Brian Iwuji on the strongside. A strong secondary, led by safety J.J. Billingsley, will be even better if corner Gerett Burl, suspended twice in the spring, returns.

The best thing Colorado has going for it is kicker Mason Crosby, who's made a 60-yarder in a game. When Crosby announced he was returning for his senior season, Hawkins called it his first big signing coup.

"I figured I was part of the program when there were problems, and I can be part of a fresh start and make sure everybody knows this is a good place," Crosby says.



## PRESEASON RANK:

# #5

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

	CONFERENCE TITLE	BOWL
2005	▲ 7	
2004	▲ 7	
2003	5	
2002	▲ 9	
2001	▲ 10	

\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Dan Hawkins, 1st year

**Career record:** 53-10

**Stadium:** Folsom Field

**Capacity:** 53,750

**Official athletic Web site:**

[www.cubuffs.com](http://www.cubuffs.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Montana State	
S.9	@COLORADO ST.*	31-28
S.16	Arizona State	
S.23	@GEORGIA	
S.30	@MISSOURI	41-12
O.7	Baylor	
O.14	Texas Tech	
O.21	@OKLAHOMA	
O.28	@KANSAS	44-13
N.4	Kansas State	23-20
N.11	Iowa State	16-30
N.24	@NEBRASKA	3-30

## GAME TO WATCH \*

*It's become one of those new great rivalries and Hawkins can solidify his popularity with a victory.*

\* at Denver

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/20

## OFFENSE

QB	7	Bernard Jackson (6-0, 195, Jr.)
TB	2	Hugh Charles (5-8, 185, Jr.)
FB	42	S. Jagoros (5-10, 225, Jr.)
LT	76	Edwin Harrison (6-4, 300, Jr.)
LG	66	Brian Daniels (6-4, 300, Sr.)
C	58	Mark Fenton (6-4, 295, Sr.)
RG	75	Daniel Sanders (5-3, 300, So.)
RT	60	Paul Backowski (6-6, 285, r-Fr.)
TE	48	Tyson DeVree (6-6, 245, Jr.)
WR	1	S. Robinson (5-9, 185, Jr.)
WR	83	Dusty Sprague (6-4, 190, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	33	W. Boye-Doe (6-2, 245, Sr.)
DT	86	George Hypolite (6-2, 265, So.)
NT	94	Brandon Nicolas (6-3, 270, So.)
DE	53	Abraham Wright (6-3, 240, Sr.)
SLB	40	Brad Jones (6-4, 220, So.)
MLB	49	T. Washington (5-11, 240, Sr.)
WLB	44	Jordon Dizon (6-0, 220, Jr.)
CB	26	T. Whealey (5-10, 175, Jr.)
CB	6	Gardner McKay (5-11, 180, So.)
FS	5	J.J. Billingsley (5-11, 185, Sr.)
SS	15	Ryan Walters (5-11, 200, So.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	16	Mason Crosby (6-2, 210, Sr.)
P	14	Matt DiLallo (6-1, 190, r-Fr.)

*Street & Smith's All-American*

# MANHATTAN

## KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

**2005 Record:** 5-6 overall, 2-6 Big 12

As far as handoffs go, this exchange could not have been smoother.

Former Virginia Offensive Coordinator Ron Prince, who took the program over from Bill Snyder in the offseason, has won over the K-State Nation. That's no small achievement, considering Snyder was so respected the stadium was renamed Bill Snyder Family Stadium within days of his retirement and Prince, even in Kansas, was largely unknown outside of his hometown of Junction City, a few miles from Manhattan.

Fans flocked to Prince's speaking engagements. The spring game lured a record 31,000 spectators.

Beyond the hoopla lies a rebuilding task. It's been a cruel two seasons for the Wildcats after enjoying the greatest moment in program history, the triumph over top-ranked Oklahoma for the 2003 Big 12 championship.

Since then, two last-place finishes. K-State hadn't been there since Snyder's early Big Eight days.

The rebound effort will be built around 20 returning starters and one of the most unique quarterback situations in the nation.

Sophomore Allan Evrige and seniors Allen Webb and Dylan Meier have 22 career starts among them, and all have been effective at different times. But the quarterback of the future figures to be freshman Josh Freeman, who backed out of his commitment to Nebraska to sign with the Wildcats.

When Freeman takes over is the question. The other three are proven in Division I—Evrige and Webb each have had big rushing games against Nebraska.

Meier, who sat out last season recovering from shoulder surgery, has thrown for more than 200 yards in a game four times, and wound up having the best performance in the spring game. Kansas State will attack with a low-risk, short-passing-game offense.

Whoever gets the call will be surrounded by plenty of returning veterans. Leading rusher Thomas Clayton (637 yards), top wide receivers Jordy Nelson (45 receptions) and Jermaine Moreira (35) and four offensive-line starters return.

Senior linebacker Brandon Archer has led the Wildcats in tackles each of the last two years. Free safety Marcus Watts leads a solid secondary.



## PRESEASON RANK:

# #6

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

	CONFERENCE TITLE	BOWL
2005		
2004	4	
2003	▲ 11	
2002		
2001	▲ 6	

\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Ron Prince, 1st year  
**Stadium:** Bill Snyder Family Stadium  
**Capacity:** 50,000  
**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.k-statesports.com](http://www.k-statesports.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Illinois State	
S.9	Florida Atlantic	
S.16	Marshall	21-19
S.23	Louisville	
S.30	@Baylor	
O.7	Oklahoma State	
O.14	Nebraska	25-27
O.21	@MISSOURI	36-28
O.28	Iowa State	17-45
N.4	@COLORADO	20-23
N.11	Texas	
N.18	@KANSAS	12-3

## \* GAME TO WATCH \*

*So much is unknown about these Wildcats. Marshall comes to Manhattan believing it should have won last year's meeting in Huntington.*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20  
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/20

## OFFENSE

QB	12	Allan Evrige (6-1, 210, So.)
RB	5	Thomas Clayton (6-0, 220, Sr.)
FB	30	R. McNeese (6-2, 240, Sr.)
LT	73	Gerard Speare (6-7, 290, So.)
LG	71	Derek Meyer (6-6, 290, r-Fr.)
LG	79	Jordan Bedore (6-3, 275, So.)
RG	75	Matt Boss (6-4, 310, So.)
RT	67	Greg Wafford (6-2, 305, Sr.)
TE	89	R. Norwood (6-5, 240, Jr.)
WR	27	Jordy Nelson (6-3, 210, Jr.)
WR	10	J. Moreira (5-11, 190, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	34	Blake Seiter (6-3, 245, Sr.)
DT	56	Quinton Echols (6-2, 305, Sr.)
DT	50	A. Moran (6-1, 290, So.)
DE	98	Ian Campbell (6-4, 240, So.)
SLB	46	Brandon Archer (6-2, 230, Sr.)
MLB	52	Zach Diles (6-2, 230, Sr.)
WLB	24	Maurice Mack (6-0, 215, Sr.)
CB	3	Bryan Baldwin (5-11, 185, Jr.)
CB	22	Justin McKinney (5-10, 185, Jr.)
FS	2	Marcus Watt (6-2, 180, Jr.)
SS	9	Kyle Williams (6-1, 200, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	19	Jeff Snodgrass (6-2, 200, Sr.)
P	17	Tim Reyer (6-0, 195, Jr.)

## TEXAS



BIG 12 SOUTH

## Mack's Longhorns reload with talent galore, but irreplaceable Vince Young will be sorely missed

**H**ave you noticed the "good-things-come-to-those-who-wait" trend in sports? North Carolina basketball Coach Roy Williams won his first national title in season 17. Steelers Coach Bill Cowher was in his 14th year before getting a Super Bowl ring.

Even franchises like the Red Sox and White Sox finally flew tide flags over their stadiums. Programs' and organizations' patience was rewarded

So it was with Texas last season. Decades of college football frustration in Austin, and some personal demons of Coach Mack Brown, spilled out at the Rose Bowl in January when the Longhorns finally cashed in.

Texas is no longer the national power that hasn't won it in a while. The Longhorns are the defending champions, and Brown played the next few months as if he had spent his entire career preparing for the moment.

"Our guys didn't come out of the national championship complacent," Brown says. "We went right back to work. We had our toughest and most physical spring since I've been here."

### RATING THE RECRUITS

2	Eddie Jones, DE, 6-3, 240	Poss rusher was early Longhorn commit.
3	J'Marcus Webb, OL, 6-8, 280	Has an NFL body made for blocking.
4	Lamar Houston, DE, 6-2, 257	Prep LB/FB is a natural down lineman.
5	Brian Ellis, DE, 6-5, 250	Could emerge as a top pass rusher.



## PRESEASON RANK

# 1

OFFENSE	5	4	3	2	1
DEFENSE	5	4	3	2	1
SPECIAL TEAMS	5	4	3	2	1
COACHING	5	4	3	2	1

2005 Record: 13-0 Big 12: 8-0

(beat USC in the Rose Bowl, 41-38)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE OPPONENT	2005 RESULT
S.12 North Texas	
S.16 @RICE*	25-22
S.23 Iowa State	51-10
S.30 Sam Houston State	
O.7 @OKLAHOMA**	45-12
O.14 Baylor	62-0
O.21 @NEBRASKA	
O.28 @TEXAS TECH	52-17
N.4 Oklahoma State	47-28
N.11 @KANSAS STATE	
N.24 Texas A&M	40-29

## \*GAMEDAY TICKET

Texas' early victory at Columbus last fall inspired the Longhorns' title run.

\*at Houston \*\*at Dallas

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/19

## OFFENSE

QB	12	Colt McCoy (6-3, 195, r Fr.)
TB	25	Jamaal Charles (6-1, 190, So.)
LT	79	Tony Hills (6-6, 295, Jr.)
LG	64	Kasey Studdard (6-3, 305, Sr.)
C	62	Lyle Sendlein (6-5, 305, Sr.)
RG	55	Cedric Dockery (6-4, 315, So.)
RT	63	Justin Blalock (6-4, 329, Sr.)
TE	16	Jermichael Finley (6-5, 220, r-Fr.)
SE	4	Liman Sweed (6-5, 215, Jr.)
FL	6	Quan Cosby (5-11, 200, So.)
WR	5	Billy Pittman (6-0, 198, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	80	Tim Crowder (6-4, 270, Sr.)
DT	97	Frank Okam (6-5, 315, Jr.)
DT	96	Derek Lokey (6-2, 275, Jr.)
DE	39	Brian Robison (6-3, 275, Sr.)
LB	4	Drew Kelson (6-2, 215, Jr.)
LB	40	Robert Killebrew (6-2, 230, Jr.)
LB	44	Rashad Bobine (5-11, 230, So.)
CB	5	Tarell Brown (6-0, 200, Sr.)
CB	31	Aaron Ross (6-1, 192, Sr.)
FS	27	Michael Griffin (6-0, 205, Sr.)
SS	26	Marcus Griffin (6-0, 195, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	97	Greg Johnson (6-1, 195, Sr.)
P	97	Greg Johnson (6-1, 195, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

## LONGHORNS

Official athletic Web site [www.texassports.com](http://www.texassports.com)

Stadium: Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium (80,082)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ■ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Mack Brown, 9th year (83-19)

Career record: 169-93-1

Assistant coaches: Greg Davis (off. coord./QBs), Gene Chizik (asst. head coach/co-def. coord./LBs), Duane Akuna (co-def. coord./def. backs), Bruce Chambers (recruiting coord./TEs), Oscar Giles (def. ends), Bobby Kennedy (asst. recruiting coord./WRs), Mac McWhorter (assoc. head coach/off. line), Ken Rucker (RBs), Mike Tolleson (def. tackles/special teams coord.)

Brown says he was influenced by something he read about former Kentucky basketball Coach Rick Pitino. When the Wildcats won the 1996 national championship, he called a staff meeting for 7 a.m. the next morning.

There is plenty of work for Brown and his staff, starting with identifying a successor to quarterback Vince Young, who made the strongest case yet for waiting until after the bowl games to vote for the Heisman Trophy.

But before carrying on with the business of defending a championship, Brown deserves his moment in the sun. He had won enough to get a contract that essentially makes him the Texas coach for life, but he had never won as much as a conference championship, had lost five straight to Oklahoma and had to talk his way into a BCS bowl two seasons ago.

In one perfect year, all the marks were erased.

Texas blew out the Sooners. The conference championship was so emphatic, 70-3 over Colorado, that it cost Buffaloes Coach Gary Barnett his job. The thrill ride of the final bowl game punctuated the year.

Young's talent cannot be duplicated by anybody in burnt orange or anyone else in college football, for that matter. It wasn't the numbers, although they were terrific: team-best 1,050 yards rushing and 12 rushing touchdowns to go along with 65.2-percent passing and 26 TD throws.

Young's ability to prevent losing may be unequalled in the game's history. In Texas' 20-game winning streak, Young personally rallied the Longhorns from double-digit deficits in the second half three times, none more impressively than his last collegiate escape. Down by 12 to Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl with 6:42 left, Young guided two touchdown drives for the 41-38 triumph. He scored the game-winner on a fourth-down keeper.

And either Colt McCoy or Jevan Snead is supposed to follow that?

"We're planning on playing both of them unless one separates himself," Brown says.

McCoy sat out last year as a redshirt freshman. Snead, who originally committed to Florida, finished high school a semester early to enroll. The idea will be to keep as much pressure off of either or both, and let the more-veteran talent become the offensive features.

And there is talent throughout the rest of the offense. All of the running backs return, led by Jamaal Charles, named the league's top offensive freshman after rushing for 878 yards. Ramon Taylor (513 yards), Selvin Young (461) and Henley Melton (432) got nearly all the attempts not taken by Vince Young.

The wide receivers, led by Limas Sweed (36 receptions) and Billy Pittman (34), are back, but the big loss is tight end David Thomas, who caught 0 passes in the Rose Bowl. Redshirt freshman Jermichael Finley had an excellent spring.

Tackle Justin Blalock, center Lyle Sendlein and guard Kasey Studdard are the foundation for one of the nation's top offensive lines.

Brown said in the spring that he'll consider moving his experienced players—like allowing Blalock to play some guard—to take advantage of their versatility.

Back to the quarterbacks. Texas fans may get queasy at the idea of both playing, as hinted by Offensive Coordinator Greg Davis during the spring. "I think there's a chance," he said. It depends on how they continue to play in game situations."

The old double-quarterback trick. It never really caught on in Austin. There was Major Applewhite and Chris Sims. Then Vince Young and Chance Mock. Some who bleed burnt orange would never admit it today, but a strong faction wanted Young moved to receiver to allow Mock time to develop.

"People love playing two quarterbacks around here," Brown jokes.

McCoy threw 116 touchdown passes at Jim Ned High, good for No. 2 in Texas prep history. Last season, he ran the scout team and occasionally took snaps with the second-team offense.

Snead was a high school All-American who led Stephenville (Texas) High to the state semifinals last season. Now one of them has to replace a

quarterback who went 30-2 as a starter and joins the likes of Bobby Layne, Earl Campbell and Ricky Williams as Longhorn legends.

Young had thought about returning for his senior year, and even told some friends during last season that it was his intention. But he's the classic example of striking while the iron's hot, and he was never going to be hotter than after his second Rose Bowl triumph.

"We know there's inexperience at quarterback," Brown says. "But the talent is there."

Texas lost some star power on defense, namely Michael Huff and Cedric Griffin in the secondary, tackle Rod Wright and linebacker Aaron Harris. All of them were first team All-Big 12 selections.

But Texas is a program that reloads and three all-league players—ends Tim Crowder and Brian Robison and safety Michael Griffin—head up a stellar group.

Tackle Frank Okam, linebacker Robert Killebrew and cornerback Tarell Brown return, and so does Rashad Bobino, a Freshman All-America linebacker.

Who steps in? Junior Derek Lokey and sophomore Roy Miller lead at tackles. They each played at least 10 games last season. Michael Griffin's twin brother, Marcus, goes to safety.

A real concern is the kicking game. David Pino, who won the previous year's Rose Bowl with a last-second field goal, and punter Richmond McGee are gone, as is dependable deep snapper Nick Schroeder.

Greg Johnson, who handled Texas' kickoffs last season, figures to do the placekicking and the punting this year. The left footer was a Freshman All-American at Vanderbilt in 2002.

Texas is set in most areas. Quarterback is the big concern, but if McCoy or Snead develops quickly this season, look for the Longhorns to repeat as league champions and return to the BCS.

## NEXT BIG THING

### JERMICHAEL FINLEY, redshirt freshman tight end

Not only did Texas lose do-everything quarterback Vince Young, the Longhorns will also be without the services of All America tight end David Thomas, the team's leading receiver in 2005.

While Jermichael Finley can't replace Young, the redshirt freshman has a chance to make fans quickly forget about Thomas. He's certainly made an impression on his fellow teammates with his play this spring.

"I call him a beast," All-Big 12 Longhorns cornerback Aaron Ross said about Finley, after the 6-5 tight end led all receivers with 73 yards and a touchdown. "He's big. He's fast. He can catch, and he loves the weight room. Anything you ask, he can do it. I'm really glad he's on my team."

Finley signed with Texas out of in-state Diboll High, where he was a four-year starter at tight end and also played defensive end, wide receiver, safety, punter and kicker. His 30 TD

catches and 2,127 receiving yards are both career school records. Following the new wave of tight ends, he was also a basketball player at Diboll, averaging 24 points and 20 rebounds his senior season.

"The reason why basketball players become good tight ends is because we can jump," Finley says.

With Thomas already a lock at tight end last year, Longhorns Coach Mack Brown decided to redshirt Finley, who says the experience helped him prepare for this season.

"Last year I was just getting a mental rep watching [Thomas] progress," says Finley, who added 30 pounds to his frame and is now at 240. "Every time he caught the ball ... I was just looking at him. I've got a long way to go. My passing game is there, but my blocking game I need to work on a little bit more."

—Matt McKenzie

### 2005 TEAM STATS

	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
SCORING	652			213		
Points Per Game	50.2			16.4		
FIRST DOWNS	521			224		
Rushing	180			106		
Passing	121			99		
Penalty	20			19		
RUSHING YARDAGE	3574			1702		
Yards gained rushing	3866			2115		
Yards lost rushing	292			413		
Rushing Attempts	605			461		
Average Per Rush	5.9			3.7		
Average Per Game	274.9			130.9		
TDs Rushing	55			15		
PASSING YARDAGE	3083			2256		
Att-Comp-Int	218-11			436-223-11		
Average Per Pass	9.2			5.1		
Average Per Catch	14.1			10.0		
Average Per Game	237.2			172.0		
TDs Passing	26			10		
TOTAL OFFENSE	6657			3938		
Total Plays	941			897		
Average Per Play	7.1			4.4		
Average Per Game	512.1			302.9		
KICK RETURNS # YDS	22-593			80-1522		
PUNT RETURNS # YDS	43-671			10-70		
INT RETURNS # YDS	11-90			11-151		
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	27.0			19.0		
PLNT RETURN AVERAGE	15.6			7.0		
INT RETURN AVERAGE	8.2			13.7		
FUMBLES-LOST	35-9			27-16		
PENAL-TIES-YARDS	99-852			106-845		
Average Per Game	65.5			65.0		
PUNTS-YARDS	38-1444			89-3485		
Average Per Punt	38.0			39.2		
Net punt average	36.2			31.6		
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME	30:54			29:06		
3RD-DOWN CONV.	86/173			61/200		
3rd-Down Pct	50%			30%		
4TH-DOWN CONV.	12/20			10/21		
4th-Down Pct	60%			48%		
SACKS BY-YARDS	34-268			14-102		
MISC YARDS	97			0		
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	88			25		
FIELD GOALS ATTEMPTS	14-18			14-20		
PAT-ATTEMPTS	76-85			21-22		
ATTENDANCE	415663			342231		
Games/Avg Per Game	5/83333			5/68446		
Neutral Site Games	3/80182					

	Texas	160	218	158	116	552
	Opponents	66	48	58	41	213

### 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

#### OFFENSE

##### PASSING

Vince Young	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
Vince Young	13	163.95	325-212-10	65.2	3036	26	233.5
Matt Nordgren	13	72.25	11-6-1	54.5	47	0	3.9

Rushing	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Vince Young	13	155	1050	6.8	12	80.8
Jamaal Charles	13	119	878	7.4	11	67.5
R. Taylor	13	76	513	6.8	12	39.5

Receiving	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
David Thomas	13	50	613	12.3	5	47.2
Limas Sweed	13	36	545	15.1	5	41.9
Billy Pittman	13	34	750	22.1	5	57.7

##### DEFENSE

##### TACKLES

Michael Griffin	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Michael Griffin	13	67	57	124
Michael Huff	13	53	56	109
Aaron Harris	13	57	34	91

##### SACKS

Brian Robison	GP	No.	Yds.
Brian Robison	13	12	70
Rodrique Wright	13	4	5
Robert Killebrew	13	4	49

##### INTERCEPTIONS

Michael Griffin	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Michael Griffin	3	0	0.0	0

Aaron Ross	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Aaron Ross	3	40	13.3	0

Aaron Harris	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Aaron Harris	1	30	30.0	0

## OKLAHOMA

**DYNAMIC DEFENSE COULD VAULT SOONERS PAST TEXAS FOR BIG 12 SOUTH TITLE**

The news didn't change much from scrimmage to scrimmage during Oklahoma's spring workouts.

Defense dominated.

Now, keep in mind, the Sooners operated without quarterback Rhett Bomar and running back Adrian Peterson involved in contact. No need to injure the franchises.

But make no mistake, this defense is reminding Bob Stoops of some of his best units those years when you'd call the school's media relations department and try to argue out of a seventh Sooner making the all-conference team.

"I don't think there's any question we're ahead of where we were a year ago," Stoops says. "We have a chance to be pretty special this year."

And the Sooners weren't bad last year. They ranked No. 13 nationally in total defense and 18th against the run. The defense came up big in the 17-14 victory over Oregon in the Holiday Bowl.

What fuels the optimism? Let's start up front. Ends C.J. Ah You, the defensive MVP of the Holiday Bowl, and 2005 sack leader Calvin Thibodeaux had solid seasons, and they weren't even slated to start. Larry Birdine suffered torn biceps last August and didn't play until the bowl

**RATING THE RECRUITS**

**1 Gerald McCoy, DL, 6-4, 305**

Nation's top DL prospect should contribute.

**2 Adron Tennen, WR, 6-5, 200**

Rangy wideout is also a top jumper in track.

**3 Jermaine Gresham, TE, 6-7, 230**

Two-sport phenom from Sooner State is highly touted.

**4 Malcolm Williams, DB, 5-10, 172**

Underrated defender could play early.

**5 DeMarco Murray, RB, 6-0, 183**

Las Vegas prep star has great potential.



PRESEASON RANK:

**#2**

**POWER RATINGS**

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★★
COACHING	★★★★★

2005 Record:

**8-4**

Big 12:

**6-2**

(beat Oregon in the Holiday Bowl, 17-14)

**2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	UAB	
S.9	Washington	
S.16	<b>@OREGON</b>	
S.23	Middle Tennessee State	
O.7	Texas*	12-45
O.14	Iowa State	
O.21	Colorado	
O.28	<b>@M SSOUR</b>	
N.4	<b>@TEXAS A&amp;M</b>	36-30
N.11	Texas Tech	21-23
N.18	<b>@BAYLOR</b>	37-30 (OT)
N.25	<b>@OKLAHOMA STATE</b>	42-14

**\* GAME TO WATCH \***

No problem against UAB or Washington, but Sooners' trip to Oregon could determine if this is a championship-quality team.

\*at Dallas

**PROJECTED STARTERS**

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 33/19

**OFFENSIVE**

QB	7	Rhett Bomar (6-2, 215, So.)
RB	28	Adrian Peterson (6-2, 215, Jr.)
FB	40	Dane Zastaw (6-0, 242, Jr.)
LT	76	Branndon Braxton (6-6, 318, So.)
LG	72	George Robinson (6-5, 360, So.)
C	72	Chad Roark (6-2, 290, Fr.)
RG	74	Brian Simmons (6-5, 290, r-Fr.)
RT	79	Chris Messner (6-6, 280, Sr.)
TE	19	Joe Jon Finley (6-6, 244, Jr.)
WR	4	Malcolm Kelly (6-4, 214, So.)
WR	9	Joaquin Iglesias (6-0, 198, So.)

**DEFENSIVE**

DE	58	Calvin Thibodeaux (6-1, 255, Sr.)
DT	68	Carl Pendleton (6-5, 285, Jr.)
DT	97	Cory Bennett (6-2, 275, So.)
DE	99	C.J. Ah You (6-4, 272, Sr.)
SLB	51	Demarco Pleasant (6-2, 225, Jr.)

MLB	46	Zach Latimer (6-2, 232, Sr.)
WLB	42	Rufus Alexander (6-1, 231, Sr.)
CB	25	D.J. Wolfe (5-11, 200, Jr.)
CB	3	Reggie Smith (6-1, 199, So.)
FS	98	Danien Williams (5-10, 197, Jr.)

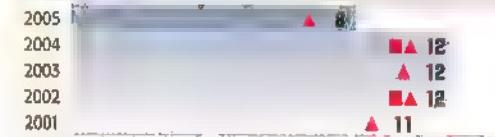
SS	6	Jason Carter (5-10, 192, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		

PK	10	Garrett Hartley (5-9, 186, Jr.)
P	39	Mike Knall (5-10, 175, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

**SOONERS**

Stadium: Gaylord Family - Oklahoma Memorial Stadium (82,112)

**5-YEAR WINS TREND****CONFERENCE TITLE****BOWL****NATIONAL TITLE**

Head coach: Bob Stoops, 8th year (75-16)

Career record: 75-16

Assistant coaches: Brent Venables (assoc. head coach/co-def coord./LBs), Bobby Jack Wright (asst. head coach/co-def coord./def. backs), Kevin Wilson (off. coord./TEs/FBs), Cale Gundu (recruiting coord./RBs), Kevin Sumlin (co-off. coord./passing game coord./WRs), James Patton (off. line), Josh Heupel (QBs), Jackie Shipp (def. line), Chris Wilson (def. ends)

game. John Williams didn't even get that after tearing an ACL in the opener.

That's four quality players, all starters, for two end positions.

At tackle, Carl Pendleton returns and there is plenty of talent among Cory Bennett, Steven Coleman and DeMarcus Granger. Add to that group one of the nation's top recruits, Gerald McCoy, and Oklahoma's front should be the strongest in the Big 12.

That can also be said of the secondary. Reggie Smith was the talk of the spring. He moved from free safety to corner and picked up the position quickly. He's played smart and fundamentally sound, and "was exceptional," Stoops says. "He showed great anticipation. He's a big cover guy with a great change-of-direction and cover skills. What else do you want?"

Cornerback D.J. Wolfe went even farther in his position switch. He came to school as a running back and started every game at corner last season.

Nobody in the business finds the right spot for players better than Stoops. Some of his earlier strokes: Frank Romero went from the defense to offensive line and made All-Big 12. Jamaal Brown went the same path and became a first-round NFL pick. Mark Bradley is in the NFL as a wide receiver after starting as a corner.

The Sooners lost a potential starting linebacker in the spring when Ryan Reynolds tore knee ligaments.

Returning starter Rufus Alexander is bidding to become the program's fifth Butkus Award winner. He led the Sooners with 102 tackles, including 17 for loss and five sacks.

With all of that potential for an amazing defense, it's easy to forget that Oklahoma has a running back who finished second in the Heisman voting two years ago.

Peterson rushed for 817 fewer yards as a sophomore than he did as a freshman, yet still led Big 12 running backs with 1,108 rushing yards. His 14 rushing touchdowns were only one fewer than last year.

A high-ankle injury forced Peterson to miss at least one half of play in four games last season and he finished with 119 fewer attempts than 2004. There should be no lingering problems in the fall.

Peterson figures to be more of a receiving threat this year. That was an emphasis in the spring.



The idea is to get Peterson out of the crowded spaces and force linebackers or safeties into a one-on-one situation.

"I'll throw it three yards and he'll take it 50," Bomar says. "I like that."

Who in crimson-and-cream wouldn't? Peterson has caught 14 passes for 62 yards in his career.

"If they throw it, I'll catch it," Peterson says.

Bomar will throw it. He gave Oklahoma a good rookie season, passing for 168 yards per game with 10 touchdowns. The drop-off from the (former OU quarterback) Jason White seasons was pronounced. Bomar capped the year with a 229-yard passing effort and offensive MVP honors in the Holiday Bowl.

Bomar's fearlessness is also a concern. He's a hard-nosed player willing to absorb punishment for extra yards, but it leaves him vulnerable to injury. But Stoops believes Bomar will play smarter. For one thing, he wasn't engaged in a fierce position battle as he was a year ago.

Bomar wasn't the starter for the opener; Paul Thompson was. But the Sooners bogged down in losing their opener to TCU. Bomar then got the call.

"This feels totally different than last year," Bomar says. "When you have experience under your belt, that makes it a whole lot different."

Also back is leading receiver Malcolm Kelly, who caught 33 passes and two touchdowns in 2005.

But finding new musclemen up front is the biggest challenge for Oklahoma this season. Tackle Chris Messner is the lone returning starter. The other tackle will be Brandon Braxton, who started three games. George Robinson, who got in 10 games as a freshman last season, is one guard, while Brian Simmons, moved from the defensive side, is the other guard.

The center is expected to be Chad Roark, who enrolled from high school in January. That's how inexperienced the line is.

The new line coach, James Patton, came from Northwestern, where he faced a similar situation a last year. With one returning starter, the Wildcats put up big offensive numbers and advanced to the Sun Bowl.

New blood might not be a bad thing. Early on, the line got pushed around by smaller teams, and it never really jelled.

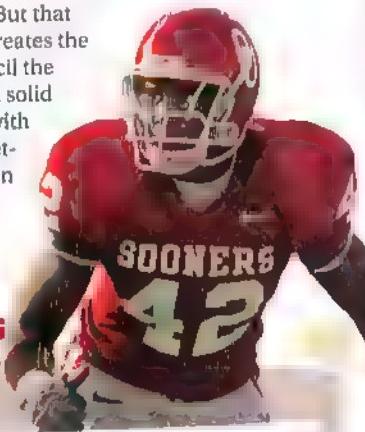
One of the bigger losses won't get much ink, but Stoops truly understood the importance of fullback J.D. Runnels, a ferocious blocker with wonderfully soft hands. Every chance he could, Stoops would tout Runnels for all-conference, knowing it would never happen.

Tight end Bubba Moses was also a terrific blocker, which means opportunity awaits those who open holes for Peterson and protect Bomar.

The kicker, Garrett Hartley, returns, but the Sooners are looking for a punter.

A year ago, the Sooners dug themselves into a big hole, losing to TCU out of the gate, falling at UCLA and getting smacked by Texas to end a five-game winning streak over the Longhorns. Oklahoma stood 2-3. The message from Stoops: Oklahoma wasn't that far off—hang in there.

The Sooners did and lost only once more, on a controversial call at Texas Tech. The temptation is to assume this Oklahoma team will be better. The defense undoubtedly will be excellent. Bomar, Peterson and the skill folks are top-notch. But that offensive line creates the hesitation. Pencil the Sooners in for a solid second place, with the annual meeting with Texas in Dallas settling the division as usual.



## NEXT BIG THING

### RUFUS ALEXANDER, senior linebacker

On the verge of superstardom, Rufus Alexander is ready to enter the national consciousness.

A linebacker with a big-time case of nastiness, Alexander is to the Sooners defense what running back Adrian Peterson is to the Oklahoma offense—it's leader and best player.

Alexander won All-Big 12 honors in 2005 with a team-leading 102 tackles, 15 tackles for loss, five sacks, two forced fumbles, one fumble recovery and one interception. He is constantly around the ball and NFL scouts are already looking at him as the top linebacker prospect for the 2007 draft.

Alexander is a nonstop ball of energy on the field, and the effort he plays with is a reflection of how much he enjoys playing the game.

"I'm always motivated," Alexander says. "If you are going to be the best at what you do in life, you have to be willing to put in the time and work. I'm fortunate enough to play college foot-

ball and if it takes me going to extra workouts to be the best player I can be, then that's what I'm going to do."

Alexander's play has largely been influenced by Sooners Coach Bob Stoops and his conditioning coach, Jerry Schmidt, but former Sooner Teddy Lehman (Detroit Lions) has been a major influence on how he plays the position.

"Teddy was a great student of the game," Alexander says. "He could see things coming at him during the game before they happened, and that's what I've tried to learn from Teddy: getting in the film room and studying the game."

Alexander has a nearly unbeatable combination of physical skills and he adds intelligence and outstanding preparation to the mix. Throw all those things together, add unlimited passion for the game and it means the Sooners have one of the most dominant players in the nation headlining their defense.

—Steve Silverman

## 2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	
SCORING	323 277
Points Per Game	26.9 23.1
FIRST DOWNS	231 206
Rushing	113 62
Passing	103 120
Penalty	15 24
RUSHING YARDAGE	2130 1087
Yards gained rushing	2557 1567
Yards lost rushing	427 480
Rushing Attempts	526 392
Average Per Rush	4.0 2.8
Average Per Game	177.5 90.6
TDs Rushing	27 11
PASSING YARDAGE	2131 2593
Att Comp-Int	336-179-11 438-232-13
Average Per Pass	6.3 5.9
Average Per Catch	11.9 11.2
Average Per Game	177.6 216.1
TDs Passing	10 20
TOTAL OFFENSE	4261 3680
Total Plays	862 830
Average Per Play	4.9 4.4
Average Per Game	355.1 306.7
KICK RETURNS #-YDS	39-709 34-600
PUNT RETURNS #-YDS	30-222 18-122
INT RETURNS #-YDS	13-220 11-112
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	18.2 17.6
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.4 6.8
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.9 10.2
FUMBLES-LOST	31-13 23-0
PENALTIES-YARDS	112-860 91-683
Average Per Game	71.7 56.9
POINTS-YARDS	71-3004 79-3370
Average Per Punt	42.3 42.7
Net punt average	37.8 37.8
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME	31:29 28:31
3RD-DOWN CONV.	68/190 59/181
3rd-Down Pct	36% 33%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	12/19 7/16
4th-Down Pct	63% 44%
SACKS BY-YARDS	45-274 21-170
MISC YARDS	0 84
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	40 34
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	14-22 14-18
PAT-ATTEMPTS	37-38 27-28
ATTENDANCE	50,584 186,685
Games/Avg Per Game	6/84331 3/62195
Neutral Site Games	3/64992

SCORE	GP	W	L	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TO
Oklahoma	91	65	64	93	10	1	323		
Opponents	50	60	55	109	3		277		

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

### OFFENSE

#### PASSING

Player	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
Rhett Bomar	12	113.48	308-167-10	54.2	2018	10	168.2
Paul Thompson	10	69.83	26-11-1	42.3	109	0	10.9

#### RUSHING

Player	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
A. Peterson	13	221	1104	5.0	14	100.4
Kejuan Jones	11	86	280	3.3	4	25.5
Jacob Gutierrez	11	48	254	5.3	2	23.1

#### RECEIVING

Player	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Malcolm Kelly	11	33	471	14.3	2	42.8
Travis Wilson	9	25	310	12.4	1	34.4
J.D. Runnels	12	20	205	10.2	1	17.1

#### DEFENSE

Player	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Rufus Alexander	12	56	46	102
Zach Latimer	12	52	32	84
D.J. Wolfe	12	45	20	65

#### SACKS

Player	GP	No.	Yds.
Calvin Thibodeaux	12	10.0	52
C.J. Ah You	12	7.0	34
Rufus Alexander	12	5.0	36

#### INTERCEPTIONS

Player	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Clint Ingram	5	63	12.6	1
D.J. Wolfe	2	65	32.5	1
Reggie Smith	2	14	7.0	0



LUBBOCK

# TEXAS TECH

## Improved defense may be key to Red Raiders taking the next step on the national scene

**E**very year, the Red Raiders seem to get a little bit closer to a division championship.

When Mike Leach arrived as coach, Texas Tech continued its trend of six or seven regular-season victories. Leach bumped that up to eight, and last year's team finished the regular season at 9-2, the best record since 1976. The Cotton Bowl berth was the first as a Big 12 member.

Tech's 6-2 league record also was a high-water mark in Big 12 play, and the good folks in Lubbock would like to remind you that Texas Tech is the only program in the 10 years of league play that has never posted a losing mark.

Steady improvement is possible because the Red Raiders are becoming a more balanced team. The defense has gotten that much better in the Leach tenure, which begins its seventh year.

Three seasons ago, Tech could only beat a quality opponent in a shootout. Few who attended will ever forget the 51-49 loss at Oklahoma State or the 49-45 triumph at Mississippi.

Such games were wonderful spectacles, but hardly the mark of a championship contender. The steady improvement on defense, along with Leach's innovative offensive approach, has placed Tech on the cusp of being a national power.

Is this the year of the next step, an opportunity to break the Texas-Oklahoma stranglehold on the South Division?

Hard to say. Tech has some big shoes to fill, starting with the quarterback. The Red Raiders will have their fifth new starter in five years, but this season will be different because it's the first time since Kliff Kingsbury's junior season of 2001 that Tech will start a year without a senior quarterback.

Kingsbury was a third-year starter as a senior in 2002, and B.J. Symons, Sonny Cumbie and Cody Hodges all started only as seniors. All of them led the nation in passing yards.

The leader to succeed Hodges is a sophomore, Graham Harrell, who won't have the luxury of three or four years to become indoctrinated into the offense.

Harrell got plenty of time during Tech's non-conference schedule in 2005. He passed for 208



PRESEASON RANK

#3

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★ ★

2005 Record: 9-3 Big 12: 6-2

(lost to Alabama in the Cotton Bowl, 13-10)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
8/26	Southern Methodist	
9/2	@UTEP	
9/9	@TCU	
9/16	Southeastern Louisiana	
9/23	@TEXAS A&M	56-17
9/30	Missouri	
10/7	@COLORADO	
10/14	@IOWA STATE	
10/21	Texas	17-52
10/28	Baylor	28-0
11/4	@OKLAHOMA	23-21
11/11	Oklahoma State	17-24

## GAME TO WATCH

Pull this one off to take the division lead and it could be the greatest day in the program's history.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 33/19

QB	6	Graham Harrell (6-3, 197, So.)
RB	21	Shannon Woods (5-11, 197, So.)
LT	69	Glenn January (6-7, 287, Sr.)
LG	65	Louis Vasquez (6-6, 335, So.)
C	73	Brandon Jones (6-3, 309, Sr.)
RG	63	Manuel Ramirez (6-4, 328, Sr.)
RT	78	Gabe Hall (6-4, 293, Sr.)
WR	20	Danny Amendola (5-11, 176, Jr.)
WR	88	Jarrett Hicks (6-3, 208, Sr.)
WR	9	Robert Johnson (6-1, 218, Sr.)
WR	8	Joel Filani (6-3, 214, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	91	McKinney Dixon (6-3, 245, So.)
DT	93	Chris Hudler (6-3, 290, Jr.)
DT	51	Dek Bake (6-5, 268, Sr.)
DE	92	Seth Nitschmann (6-4, 257, Jr.)
LB	96	Keyunta Dawson (6-2, 260, Jr.)
LB	45	Brock Stratton (5-11, 214, Jr.)
LB	42	Fletcher Session (6-0, 229, Jr.)
CB	36	Antonio Huffman (6-0, 180, Jr.)
CB	17	Chris Parker (5-11, 175, So.)
SS	49	Joe Garcia (6-2, 206, So.)
FS	7	Darcel McBath (6-1, 193, So.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	30	Alex Trlica (6-0, 172, Jr.)
P	22	Alex Reyes (6-1, 226, Sr.)

## RED RAIDERS

Stadium: Jones AT&amp;T Stadium (53,000)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Mike Leach, 7th year (48-28)

Career record: 48-28

Assistant coaches: Bill Bedenbaugh (off. line), Dave Brown (secondary), Sonny Dykes (co-off. coord./WRs), Dana Holgerson (co-off. coord./inside receivers), Carlos Marin (safeties), Ruffin McNeill (asst. head coach), Charlie Sadler (def. ends), Lyle Setencich (def. coord./LBs), Seth Littrell (RBs)

yards against Sam Houston State and took some snaps in the Cotton Bowl loss to Alabama.

But redshirt freshman Chris Todd is also part of the position battle, and Leach liked what he saw from both in the spring.

"Both of them surprised me a little with how relentless they were watching film," Leach recalls. "You'd wander through the building late at night, and there they were. It's very competitive."

Whoever starts, he'll have the usual wealth of targets. The top four wide receivers—Jarrett Hicks, Robert Johnson, Joel Filani and Danny Amendola—are back. They combined for 231 receptions.

The big loss is running back Taurean Henderson, a superior blocker who set NCAA records for career receptions by a running back (303) and games with a touchdown (38). He also rushed for more than 3,200 yards.

Whoever gets Henderson's plays among Shannon Woods, Kobey Lewis and Pete Richardson will be the player who is the best blocker, Leach says.

Only one starting offensive lineman is lost, so tackles Gabe Hall and Glenn January, guard Manuel Ramirez and center Brandon Jones should keep the Tech offense well-protected.

Alarms would usually sound with talented free safety Dwayne Slay being among six defensive starters gone. But three players who started in 2004 and were lost last season to injuries are back. Middle linebacker Brock Stratton, end Seth Nitschmann and tackle Dek Bake automatically raise the experience level of coordinator Lyle Setencich's unit.

Linebackers Keyunta Dawson and Fletcher Session are the best of the returning bunch. It was no small accomplishment that the defense held the Tech offense to three points through three quarters of the spring game.

"Defensively, I think this is the most impressive group of guys to be able to respond to play after play," Leach says.

Better defense and not much falloff from an offense that has plenty of playmakers returning.

Hmm.

Just maybe this is the year Tech has its best opportunity to nudge past the Longhorns and Sooners.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

1	Off. Malletas, OH	Top junior-college blocker is an immediate help.
2	Taylor Potts, QB, 6-5, 220	Underrated in-state QB could play early.
3	Clarence Ward, DB, 6-0, 188	Big-time talent needs consistency.
4	Leonard Hewitt, DB, 5-10, 175	All-State Texas prep star with potential.
5	Dan-Tay Ward, DL, 6-2, 291	Touted defender is tough to block.

## TEXAS A&amp;M

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

**A&M responds to the Longhorns' national title with staff shakeups and offensive adjustments**

Texas A&M can only hope it took the wrong turn. With 17 starters back from a team that played in the Cotton Bowl the previous season, the 2005 Aggies figured to keep turning the corner and challenge for the division championship. Instead, A&M must have looked at the wrong map. It finished 5-6, stuck in fourth place in the Big 12 South.

And watching rival Texas win the national championship didn't make things better in College Station.

The postseason spin was positive: younger players had started to develop and the next season's roster would be made up of nearly all of Coach Dennis Franchione's recruits. Still, the disappointment of last season was palpable and changes were made. Gary Darnell, whose last job was head coach at Western Michigan, replaced Carl Torbush as defensive coordinator. Two other defensive staffers took jobs at other schools. Bill Clay, a former coordinator at Oklahoma State, takes over the safeties.

The moves were made after A&M had an abysmal year on defense, ranking 107th nationally in yards surrendered and dead last in pass defense.

The change in staff means a change in alignment. The Aggies will operate from a 4-2-5, replacing a linebacker with a defensive back.

"A little bit of change is healthy," Franchione says.

It was with defense in mind that A&M went shopping for recruits and at least one newcomer, junior-college transfer Mark Dodge, figures to start at linebacker.

Dodge is an interesting story. Before enrolling in college, he spent four years in the Army and was stationed at the Pentagon during the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The Aggies were seeking the non-traditional linebacker, more of a fleet, linebacker/strong safety hybrid. The idea was that most offenses operate out of a one-back, multiple-receiver set, and defenses need to match that type of athlete.

This A&M defense will be young, with only three seniors listed as starters entering fall camp—tackle Bryce Reed, linebacker Justin Warren and strong safety Melvin Bullitt. Three other linemen who started last season are on the two-deep: ends Chris Harrington and Jason Jack and tackle Red Bryant.

The secondary gets a new look. Bullitt may be joined by all sophomores and freshmen.

The Aggies didn't have many problems scoring last season. They averaged 32 points, third in the Big 12, and had the league's second-best rushing game at 234.9 yards per outing.

Where will those numbers go this season? Seven returning offensive starters say they should



## PRESEASON RANK

#4

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★

2005 Record: 5-6   Big 12: 3-5

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
5.2	Citadel	
5.9	Louisiana-Lafayette	
5.16	Army*	
5.23	Louisiana Tech	
5.30	Texas Tech	17-56
6.7	@KANSAS	
6.14	Missouri	
6.21	@OKLAHOMA STATE	62-23
6.28	@BAYLOR	16-13 (OT)
7.4	Oklahoma	30-36
7.11	Nebraska	
7.24	@TEXAS	29-40

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

*The Red Raiders have moved past A&M in the division-power structure. This is the Aggies' chance to reclaim their territory.*

\* at San Antonio, TX

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/29

## OFFENSE

QB	7	Stephen McGee (6-3, 207, So.)
TB	25	Courtney Lewis (6-0, 204, Sr.)
FB	24	Chris Alexander (5-11, 246, Jr.)
QT	71	Yemi Babalola (6-4, 308, So.)
QG	64	Kirk Elder (6-4, 312, Jr.)
C	70	Cody Wallace (6-4, 296, Jr.)
SG	77	Grant Dickey (6-5, 313, Sr.)
ST	54	Corey Clark (6-6, 311, Jr.)
TE	3	Martellus Bennett (6-7, 248, So.)
WR	14	Chad Schroeder (6-1, 181, Sr.)
WR	2	Earvin Taylor (6-3, 244, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	92	Chris Harrington (6-5, 263, Jr.)
DT	35	Bryce Reed (6-1, 304, Sr.)
DT	85	Red Bryant (6-5, 330, Jr.)
DE	49	Cyril Obiozor (6-4, 270, So.)
LB	50	Mark Dodge (6-2, 219, Jr.)
LB	10	Justin Warren (6-3, 245, Sr.)
WHP	48	Arketh Brown (6-0, 175, So.)
CB	4	Danny Gorner (6-0, 182, So.)
CB	27	Jordan Peterson (5-10, 192, r-Fr.)
FS	26	Devin Gregg (5-11, 195, So.)
SS	33	Melvin Bullitt (6-1, 204, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	32	Layne Neumann (6-0, 175, Sr.)
P	44	Justin Brantly (6-3, 232, So.)

## AGGIES

Stadium: Kyle Field (82,600)



improve, even if one of the losses was quarterback Reggie McNeal.

The uneven career of McNeal came to an inglorious end last season when an injury kept him out of the Texas game and forfeited a chance to lead the Aggies to a winning season and bowl game.

McNeal left as the school's leader in career total offense and passing yards, but he played for two coaches and the Aggies changed their offense to a spread option in his senior season. McNeal was never comfortable in the option.

His successor, Stephen McGee, is, if his one start was any indication. McGee got the call against Texas and rushed for 108 yards and two touchdowns. He passed for 83. The Aggies actually had a third-quarter lead in the game.

The 40-29 loss to the Longhorns, who obliterated Colorado a week later for the Big 12 championship and beat Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl for the national title, is actually a reason to feel good about A&M. In that game, 265-pound tailback Jevon Lane rushed for 104 yards. That day, the Aggies rushed for 277 yards.

"People got a glimpse of the future that day," Franchione says.

Lane, a sophomore, and senior Courtney Lewis, who led the Aggies with 723 rushing yards last year, lead an offense that should be in good shape. The position got even deeper on signing day when the Aggies secured freshman Mike Goodson, ranked among the nation's top 100 players.

Four starters return on the offensive line and so does tight end Martellus Bennett, the jewel of last year's recruiting class who impressed last season.

## Head coach: Dennis Franchione, 4th year (16-18)

Career record: 91-73 (Division I-A)

Assistant coaches: Kenneth Pope (asst. head coach/RBs), Gary Darnell (def. coord.), Les Koenning Jr. (off. coord./QBs), Bill Clay (safeties), Bob Debesse (WRs), Stan Eggen (def. line), Jim Bob Helduser (off. line), Van Malone (CBs), Mark Tommardahl (TEs/special teams coord.).

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- 1 Mike Goodson, RB, 6-0, 205  
*Underrated Texas prep should emerge.*
- 2 Anthony Lewis, LB, 6-3, 225  
*Solid defender should contribute early.*
- 3 Cody Williams, DE, 6-4, 235  
*Sleeper of class could play linebacker.*
- 4 Kenny Brown, WR, 6-3, 197  
*Rough Oklahoma product could help.*
- 5 Jarius Neal, LB, 6-3, 218  
*Touted junior-college defender.*



WACO, TEXAS

## BAYLOR BEARS

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, 2-6 Big 12

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	3
2003	3
2002	3
2001	3

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Guy Morriss, 4th year  
(11-23)  
**Career record:** 20-37  
**Stadium:** Floyd Casey Stadium  
**Capacity:** 50,000  
**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.baylorbears.com](http://www.baylorbears.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	TCU	
S.9	Northwestern State	
S.16	@WASHINGTON ST	
S.23	Army	20-10
S.30	Kansas State	
O.7	@COLORADO	
O.14	@TEXAS	0-62
O.21	Kansas	
O.28	TEXAS A&M	24-17
N.4	@TEXAS TECH	0-28
N.11	@OKLAHOMA ST	44-34
N.18	Oklahoma	30-37 (OT)

## ★ GAME TO WATCH \*

The Bears beat the Aggies two years ago and all but beat them last season. This could be for a bowl game.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/19

## OFFENSE

QB	11	Shawn Bell (6-1, 219, Sr.)
TB	17	Paul Mosley (6-3, 235, Sr.)
■	47	Damon Dotson (5-9, 211, Sr.)
LT	72	Jason Smith (6-5, 287, So.)
LG	71	Dan Gay (6-5, 314, So.)
C	50	Will Blaylock (6-2, 308, Sr.)
HI	70	Chad Smith (6-6, 299, Jr.)
RT	68	Nick Pace (6-3, 289, Jr.)
TE	5	Terrance Parks (6-4, 243, Jr.)
WR	1	Trent Shelton (6-2, 207, Sr.)
WR	7	Dominique Zeigler (6-3, 180, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	11	Marcus Foreman (6-2, 248, Sr.)
DT	96	Klayton Shoals (6-3, 281, Sr.)
NT	■	M.T. Robinson (6-1, 305, Sr.)
DE	93	Julian Hill (6-3, 254, Sr.)
LB	■	Nick Moore (6-1, 227, Jr.)
LB	8	Antonio Jones (6-3, 229, Jr.)
ILB	15	Maunce Linguist (5-10, 207, Sr.)
ROV	11	Marlon Price (6-2, 180, So.)
CB	■	Anthony Arline (6-2, 194, Sr.)
CB	3	C.J. Wilson (6-1, 195, Sr.)
FS	1	Dwain Crawford (6-0, 202, So.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	43	Ryan Havens (5-10, 197, Sr.)
P	37	Daniel Sepulveda (6-3, 227, Sr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American



## OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, 1-7 Big 12

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	7
2003	8
2002	8
2001	4

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Mike Gundy, 2nd year  
(4-7)

**Career record:** 4-7  
**Stadium:** Boone Pickens Stadium  
**Capacity:** 48,000  
**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.okstate.com](http://www.okstate.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Missouri State	
S.9	@ARKANSAS ST.*	20-10
S.16	Florida Atlantic	23-3
S.23	@HOUSTON	
O.7	KANSAS STATE	
O.14	@KANSAS	
O.21	Texas A&M	23-62
O.28	Nebraska	
N.4	@TEXAS	28-47
N.11	Baylor	34-44
N.18	@TEXAS TECH	24-17
N.25	Oklahoma	14-42

## GAME TO WATCH

Pencil in at least a 3-1 record in non-league play for the Pokes. The Big 12 opener at Manhattan should set the tone for the rest of the season.

\* at Little Rock, Ark.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/24

## OFFENSE

QB	14	Bobby Reid (6-3, 225, So.)
RB	29	Mike Hamilton (6-1, 215, So.)
FB	33	John Johnson (6-3, 225, So.)
LT	61	David Koening (6-4, 290, Jr.)
LG	65	Steve Denning (6-4, 285, So.)
C	63	D. Washington (6-4, 295, So.)
RG	72	Kurt Seifred (6-4, 300, Sr.)
RT	75	Corey Hilliard (6-5, 310, Sr.)
TE	87	B. Pettigrew (6-5, 255, So.)
WR	8	D'Juan Woods (6-1, 210, Sr.)
WR	12	Adarius Bowman (6-4, 215 Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	51	Victor DeGrate (6-3, 250, Sr.)
DT	93	Ryan McBean (6-5, 290, Sr.)
NG	90	X. Lawson-Kennedy (6-1, 330, Sr.)
DE	50	Damrell Smith (6-0, 270, Sr.)
LB	19	Jeremy Nethon (5-10, 225, Jr.)
LB	2	Rod Johnson (6-3, 260, Jr.)
LB	44	Chris Collins (6-1, 235, Fr.)
CB	17	Jacob Lacey (5-10, 180, So.)
CB	7	Martel Van Zant (6-2, 200, Jr.)
FS	8	Donovan Woods (6-2, 220, Jr.)
SS	50	Andre Sexton (6-1, 200, Fr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	10	Bruce Redden (5-9, 185, Sr.)
P	18	Matt Fodge (6-0, 185, So.)

Place the 2005 season in the file under "Growing Pains."

Les Miles had been to three straight bowl games, but the cupboard was mostly bare when former OSU quarterback Mike Gundy took over as coach and the Cowboys sunk to the bottom of the division, supplanting Baylor.

There were some positive signs. The Cowboys led Texas by 19 points at halftime, and they defeated Cotton Bowl-bound Texas Tech.

The 4-7 record was tough to swallow for Gundy, who guided the Cowboys to successive 10-victory seasons in the 1980s as a player.

"It was difficult for me to be out there not winning football games," Gundy recalls. "We knew it was going to be a tough year because of limitations at certain positions. That didn't make it any easier."

As for this season, the growth continues. There are some positives. North Carolina transfer Adarius Bowman could be special at wide receiver. He arrived in Stillwater after being charged with possession of marijuana. Bowman said he was innocent, claiming he had no idea there were drugs in the apartment. A judge agreed and Bowman was cleared.

But he had already been dismissed from the Tar Heels. When North Carolina invited him back, Bowman said no. His position coach, Gunter Brewer, had joined Oklahoma State's staff and Bowman came with him.

Throwing his way will be Bobby Reid, who missed more than half of last season with an injured foot and watched the offense plummet to No. 92 nationally.

The offensive line is a concern. The Cowboys could start two redshirt freshmen.

The defense should be fine as it gets a second year under coordinator Vance Bedford. Watch for strong safety Andre Sexton, whose spring workout was so good the Cowboys moved Donovan Woods, the former quarterback, to free safety.

The Oklahoma State administration feels good about Gundy and the staff. It added one year to all the coaches' contracts after last season. Athletic Director Mike Holder essentially gave this group a vote of confidence in a difficult year, and Gundy says he plans to make his boss happy.

"We're a better football team than we were at the end of last year," Gundy says. "It should show up this season."

**RATING THE PLAYERS:**

<b>Fastest receiver</b>	Johnnie Lee Higgins, UTEP
<b>Best hands</b>	Aundrae Allison, WR, East Carolina
<b>Best passing QB</b>	Kevin Kolb, Houston
<b>Best running QB</b>	Joel Armstrong, Rice

<b>Most elusive RB</b>	Quinton Smith, Rice
<b>Best instincts</b>	Nick Graham, CB, Tulsa
<b>Best athlete</b>	Larry McSwain, DE, UAB
<b>Best under pressure</b>	Paul Smith, QB, Tulsa

<b>Top NFL prospect</b>	Larry McSwain, DE, UAB
<b>Top impact freshman</b>	Max Anyium, SS, Rice
<b>Hardest hitter</b>	Rocky Schwartz, DB, Houston
<b>Biggest underachiever</b>	Rice fans



Predictions &amp; Power Rankings

**EAST**

## Demise of Conference USA football has been greatly exaggerated

By JIMMIE TRAMEL  
*Tulsa World*

Conference USA underwent an extreme makeover last season and emerged better than perhaps expected.

Only six "old" C-USA schools remained after a membership turf war was waged by a few Division I-A conferences. Tulsa, Central Florida, Rice, UTEP, SMU and Marshall came aboard to join Memphis, Southern Miss, UAB, Tulane, East Carolina and Houston in a reconfigured league.

What was the result?

The conference put a record six teams in bowl games last season. Only the ACC, Big 12 and Big Ten sent more teams to the postseason.

The difference between the old C-USA and the new C-USA? Southern Miss Coach Jeff Bower says the league was deeper last season.

"I mean this in a positive way," he says. "I don't think anybody expected Tulsa and Central Florida to be in the [league] championship game. We talk all the time about parity. But in this league anything can happen. It is a deep league, and I said that before the season started last year."

The league was essentially turned upside down. Central Florida went from winless in

2004 to the Eastern Division title in 2005. Tulsa, which won four games in '04, captured the league championship in 2005.

Anyone who attempts to select a pecking order in this league is liable to wind up with egg on their face. But, on paper, it appears that three teams—Tulsa, UTEP and Houston—all have a good shot at winning the Western Division.

In the league's Eastern Hemisphere, UCF deserves to be picked first because last season's miracle turnaround was engineered with an young team. It would be folly to pick Southern Miss far from the top because the Golden Eagles just don't have losing seasons, period. But watch out for Marshall, which endured growing pains last year and is positioned to be this season's UCF.

The forecast at the bottom of the East is very cloudy. Why? None of the remaining Eastern teams (UAB, East Carolina, Memphis) is last-place-caliber.

Maybe that's what Bower means when he talks about the league's depth. Check it out for yourself on a not-so-usual football night. Seven of the conference's televised games (ESPN and ESPN2) will occur on weekdays.

**DEFENSE**

QB	Jordan Palmer, Sr., UTEP
RB	Ahmad Bradshaw, Jr., Marshall
RB	Kevin Smith, So., UCF
OL	George Batiste, Sr., Southern Miss
OL	Cedric Gagne-Marcoux, Sr., UCF
OL	Doug Legursky, Jr., Marshall
OL	Travis Cooley, Sr., Southern Miss
OL	Jeff Perrett, Sr., Tulsa
WR	Aundrae Allison, Sr., East Carolina
WR	Vincent Marshell, Sr., Houston
TE	Shawn Nelson, So., Southern Miss
PK	Darren McCaleb, Sr., Southern Miss

**Is there life after death?** SMU is the only Division I-A school ever to be dealt the NCAA's so-called "death penalty." That, plus the demise of the Southwest Conference, was a lethal double whammy for a once-proud program. But the Mustangs, who finished last season on a hot streak, could finally be back.

**Does Marshall fear no one?** The Thundering Herd plays road games against West Virginia, Kansas State and Tennessee. Future schedules are peppered with additional games against West Virginia and Tennessee, plus opponents like Wisconsin, Virginia Tech and Miami.

**Who will replace DeAngelo Williams?** New Memphis Running Backs Coach Tommie Robinson will be charged with the responsibility of finding a successor. Joseph Doss will likely step into Williams' much-used shoes.

**Is Tulane due for a few good breaks?** Not only was Tulane rendered homeless by Hurricane Katrina last season, but the Green Wave also owned one of the nation's worst turnover margins and punter Chris Beckman survived a bullet to the abdomen. He was the victim of a ricochet while shooting at targets on a hunting expedition.

**Is C-USA a league without a coaching hot seat?** Only one school (Rice) changed coaches following last season and no jobs would seem to be in jeopardy this year. George O'Leary was winless in 2004 at UCF, but now he's the toast of the league. If any head coach leaves C-USA after this season, it likely will be because a better job came along.

**RECRUITING ROUNDUP:**

**1. EAST CAROLINA:** Pirates signed league's best class, according to *SuperPrep* and *Scout.com*.

**2. UAB:** Wide receiver Jared White is a four-star *Rivals.com* and *Scout.com* signee.

**3. MEMPHIS:** Quarterback Matt Malouf and WR Duke Calhoun should be great, battersmates.

**4. MARSHALL:** Linebacker Josh Johnson and WR Darius Passmore are impact juco signees.

**5. HOUSTON:** Quarterback L.J. Castile is versatile enough to play anywhere.

**6. SOUTHERN MISS:** League's best class, according to *Rivals.com*, but the other recruiting services disagree.

**7. UCF:** Terry Mayo was nation's second-best juco QB, according to *collegefootballnews.com*.

**8. TULANE:** Green Wave invaded Pennsylvania to land OL Kevin Leary.

**9. TULSA:** Quarterback Clark Harrell was a coveted recruit.

**10. RICE:** Owls signed highly regarded dual-threat QB Pierre Beasley.

**11. UTEP:** Miners beat big-time competition for future defensive star Robert Williams.

**12. SMU:** Philip Burley spurned Big 12 Pac-10 offers to sign with the Mustangs.

# CENTRAL FLORIDA

## O'Leary has Knight fever spreading in Orlando

**R**eady for some breaking news? George O'Leary can coach a little bit. There may have been O'Leary doubters aplenty following the 2004 season, when Central Florida was the nation's only winless Division I-A team. The Golden Knights lost their first 17 games under O'Leary, and then something crazy happened. They got better in a hurry.

Central Florida lost just one Conference USA game in 2005 and won the league's Eastern Division championship. The Golden Knights made their first bowl trip in school history and O'Leary, if he wanted to rub it in, could have said, "I told you so."

O'Leary made a statement last summer that UCF could win enough games to go bowling. The comment produced more snickers than a candy bar factory. But he knew he had talented players on campus with big-play potential. He knew freshmen would have to come in and help. Bottom line: O'Leary knew the Golden Knights were not far away from respectability. He just had to stay positive and convince the guys in shoulder pads that they could win.

"We lost our first two games and right away you had your doubters," O'Leary says. "But I thought the kids, when they got the [first] win, things just started moving in the right direction. They got some confidence and things started to come together for them. They played basically the way they were supposed to play."

UCF fell one win shy of the biggest turnaround in NCAA history. The Golden Knights became the first team in NCAA history to record a five-game winning streak (and reach a conference title game) after going winless the previous season. They became the first team ever to play seven road games and advance to a bowl.

O'Leary went from O'er Leary to National Coach of the Year, earning the latter distinction from SI.com and CBSSportsline.com. Expect him to lead UCF to its second bowl trip in school history this season because the Golden Knights should be older and better. Of the 13 seniors who played last season, only five were significant contributors. A total of 25 freshmen or sophomores started games last season, including seven first-year freshmen. A league-high six UCF players were selected to C-USA's All-Freshman Team.

Running back Kevin Smith rushed for 1,178 yards, the third-highest single-season total in school history, and was C-USA's Freshman of the Year. His 202-yard performance in a bowl game allowed him to become the nation's second-leading true freshman rusher. O'Leary says he first noticed Smith when the player was a high school junior.

### RATING THE RECRUITS

1	Terry Mayo, QB, 6-4, 245 Junior-college product to run ship?
2	Rex Hill, DL, 6-2, 300 Promising juco bids for starting job.
3	Rashidi Haughton, DE, 6-3, 235 South Florida prospect has promise.
4	Jamar Newsome, WR, 6-2, 182 In-state talent could blossom.
5	Emery Allen, DB, 5-9, 170 Sunshine State athlete who can cover



### PRESEASON RANK:

# 1

### POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★

2005 Record: 8-5 | C-USA: 7-1

(lost to Nevada in the Hawaii Bowl, 49-48)

### 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	Villanova	
S. 9 @ FLORIDA		
S. 16	South Florida	14-31
S. 26	Southern Miss	31-52
O. 4 @ MARSHALL		23-13
O. 13 Pittsburgh		
O. 21 Rice		31-28
O. 28 @ HOUSTON		31-29
N. 4 East Carolina		30-20
N. 11 @ MEMPHIS		38-17
N. 18 @ TULANE		34-24
N. 25 UAB		27-21

### \* GAME TO WATCH \*

George O'Leary was a miracle worker last season. A victory at Florida would qualify as another miracle

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19  
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/15

#### OFFENSE

QB	9	Steven Moffett (6-3, 210, Sr.)
FB	23	Jason Peters (6-1, 230, Jr.)
TB	24	Kevin Smith (6-1, 195, So.)
LT	78	Patrick Brown (6-5, 265, So.)
LG	79	Kyle Smith (6-3, 280, Jr.)
C	53	Cedric Gagne-Marcoux (6-3, 290, r-Sr.)
RG	63	L.J. Anderson (6-3, 280, r-Sr.)
RT	70	Josh Sitton (6-3, 310, Jr.)
TE	85	Mike Merritt (6-3, 265, r-Jr.)
WR	11	Mike Walker (6-2, 190, Jr.)
WR	88	Sergio Joaquin (6-5, 200, r-Jr.)

#### DEFENSE

LE	91	Leger Douzable (6-4, 295, r-Jr.)
LT	90	Bryan Gabourel (6-3, 320, Sr.)
RT	74	Keith Shogolan (6-2, 275, Jr.)
RE	44	Antonio Wallace (6-2, 230, So.)
SLB	50	Ronnell Sandy (6-0, 230, r-Sr.)
MLB	14	Steven Baker (6-3, 215, Jr.)
WLB	59	Cory Hogue (6-1, 220, So.)
LCB	31	Johnell Neal (5-11, 180, r-So.)
RCB	19	Joe Burnett (5-11, 180, So.)
FS	45	Jason Venson (5-10, 210, r-So.)
SS	29	Sha'reff Rashad (6-0, 200, r-So.)
<b>SPECIALISTS</b>		
PK	9	Michael Torres (5-9, 185, r-Jr.)
P	17	Aaron Horne (6-3, 190, Jr.)

# GOLDEN KNIGHTS

Stadium: Florida Citrus Bowl (65,438)

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ■ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: George O'Leary, 3rd year (8-16)

Career record: 60-49

Assistant coaches: Miles Aldridge (DBs), James Bernhardt (recruiting coord./RBs), Joe Gilbert (off. line), George Godsey (QBs), Dave Huxtable (LBs/special teams), Brent Key (TEs), Peter McCarty (def. line), Tim Salem (off. coord./WRs), Lance Thompson (def. coord.)

"His senior year, he got moved to defensive back," the coach says. "I said, 'Thank God.' Otherwise, I think somebody would have grabbed him up before we could get to him. I said I wanted to take the kid as a running back and he wanted to do that."

Smith and senior quarterback Steven Moffett are among nine starters returning from last season. Only Daunte Culpepper has led a UCF team to more victories in a season.

Also back are all-league receiver Mike Walker and all five offensive line starters. Senior center Cedric Gagne-Marcoux was a first-team All-C-USA selection last season and was selected in the first round of the 2006 Canadian Football League Draft. He will become the property of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats if he does not sign with an NFL team following his college career.

Nine starters, chief among them first-team all-league defensive back Joe Burnett, also return on defense. The Golden Knights orchestrated their turnaround last season despite being lackluster on that side of the ball. They ranked next to last in Conference USA (and 96th nationally) in total defense.

"That's where I thought we would improve this past spring ball is defensively," O'Leary says. "I think we've got a lot more guys. We only lost three guys who played on defense out of our top 22."

O'Leary isn't counting solely on experience to make the defense better. He also wanted to tweak some things.

"We were way too stationary as a defense," he says. "We've got to get a lot more movement to our defense. Offenses are too good to be stationary, unless you are just beating the guy you are facing. You have got to make them think. We spent a lot of time this past spring moving around and making it more difficult to read some of the stuff and put that doubt in the offense's mind."

O'Leary says UCF has a chance to be a pretty good football team if everything falls right. The Golden Knights had good karma last season, ranking 12th nationally in turnover margin and going 7-2 in games decided by 10 or fewer points.

"I think the biggest area we need to concentrate on is attitude," O'Leary says. "We were very lucky last year to win some games in the fourth quarter and those games could have gone either way. Right now, I am very concerned about some of our players thinking they are a lot better than they are."

# SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL    \* NATIONAL TITLE

## Golden Eagles ready to fly past turmoil of 2005 Katrina season

**S**outhern Miss will be good this season and the season after that and the season after that. That's a safe prediction because the Golden Eagles apparently don't know how to be bad. Southern Miss is one of seven Division I-A programs riding a string of 12 consecutive non-losing seasons. The Golden Eagles have gone to bowl games eight of the past nine seasons.

What's their secret?

"I think it's recruiting the right kind of kids and it's not necessarily ability," Coach Jeff Bower says. "Obviously you've got to recruit I-A talent, but you try to recruit kids who have character and are good kids. That's very important to me. I would like to think this is a program where kids are held accountable and they should be responsible and we try to recruit those type of kids."

Southern Miss passed a character test last season, going 7-5 and winning a second consecutive bowl game despite a distraction named Katrina. The schedule had to be juggled and the Golden Eagles had to relocate temporarily to Memphis after the infamous hurricane hit.

"We had probably 35 players whose families were affected by the hurricane," Bower says. "You can imagine what some of those kids went through. We played four straight road games. We played three games in 12 days. We were a mentally whipped football team by the end of the year."

Even a postseason reward of playing in the New Orleans Bowl (staged in Lafayette, La.) proved to be a hassle. The fall semester, interrupted by Katrina, had to be extended, and final exam week coincided with bowl week. Then recruiting "season" was thrown for a loop because there were days when no Hattiesburg hotel rooms were available to house prospects.

"I have been coaching a long time and I've never been through a year like that in my life," Bower says.

Bower, entering his 16th year as head coach at his alma mater, has already reached 103 wins during his stay in Hattiesburg. He'll likely reach 110 this season.

Southern Miss returns starters at every offensive position except right tackle and quarterback. Jeremy Young ended spring drills with the inside track to grab Dustin Almond's old job.

"We have competition there and things could change, but he deserves to go into the fall as the starter because he had a good spring," Bower says.

He also says "guys around the quarterback" must be a lot better than they were last season.

"When you have an experienced guy [at QB], you can put a lot on him and expect him to make plays like we did with Dustin the last couple of years," Bower says. "I think when you have got



PRESEASON RANK:

#2

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★

2005 Record: C-USA

7-5      5-3

(beat Arkansas State in the New Orleans Bowl, 31-19)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	VS RESULT
8/2	FLORIDA	
8/9	Southeastern Louisiana	17-21
8/16	North Carolina State	52-31
8/23	@UCF	17-34
8/30	@TULSA	24-27
9/6	Houston	33-7
9/13	@VIRGINIA TECH	22-24
9/20	East Carolina	26-7
9/27	UAB	37-28
10/4	Marshall	27-24 (OT)

## \* GAME TO WATCH \*

The Golden Eagles occasionally give fits to teams from alleged power conferences.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/17

### OFFENSE

QB	10	Jeremy Young (6-3, 210, r-Jr.)
FB	33	Bobby Weakley (5-10, 241, Sr.)
RB	28	Cody Hull (5-11, 195, r-Jr.)
LT	75	Chris Clark (6-4, 280, r-Jr.)
LG	55	Travis Cooley (6-2, 285, r-Sr.)
C	56	Robby D'Angelo (6-1, 277, r-Sr.)
RG	70	George Baliste (6-5, 309, r-Sr.)
RT	66	Ryan McKee (6-5, 260, So.)
TE	89	Shawn Nelson (6-5, 230, r So.)
FL	19	Dustin Almond (5-10, 191, Sr.)
SE	13	Anthony Perring (5-11, 174, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	96	Ken Griffith (6-3, 275, r-Jr.)
NT	94	Ryan Watson (6-2, 271, r-Jr.)
DT	97	Martavious Prince (6-3, 278, r-Jr.)
BAN	47	Matthew Chatelain (6-2, 245, r-Sr.)
SLB	24	Gerald McRath (6-2, 212, r-So.)
MLB	34	Marcus Raines (6-3, 240, r-Jr.)
WLB	27	Wayne Hardy (6-0, 223, r-Sr.)
FC	21	Jasper Faulk (5-10, 183, r-Sr.)
BC	14	Caleb Hendrix (5-10, 185, Sr.)
FS	15	LeVance Richmond (5-11, 193, Jr.)
ROV	6	Brandon Sumrall (5-11, 185, Jr.)

### SP POSITION LISTS

PK	16	Darren McCaleb (5-11, 165, Sr.)
P	3	Britt Barefoot (6-0, 174, r-So.)

# GOLDEN EAGLES

Stadium: M.M. Roberts Stadium (33,000)

some inexperience at that position and you are really trying to develop some confidence within that player, you want to put a little bit more of a load on the players around him. No doubt he has got to play well at that position to be successful, but I want guys at other positions to become better playmakers and take a little pressure off our quarterback."

Southern Miss ranked 33rd nationally in passing last season, but Bower doesn't want his new quarterback throwing 40 times a game. The coach would prefer to upgrade a running attack that ranked 95th nationally last season. It should help that four starting offensive linemen return, including all-league honorees Travis Cooley and George Batiste, to block for backs Larry Thomas and Cody Hull, whose career-high 161 rushing yards in the New Orleans Bowl were the most by a Southern Miss player since 1998.

Tight end Shawn Nelson caught 35 passes for a team-best 540 yards and was named MVP of the New Orleans Bowl, but Bower issued a challenge to his receivers.

"We've got pretty good ability there," he says. "They need to play to their ability."

Southern Miss was the C-USA leader in scoring defense and sacks last season and also excelled at forcing turnovers. But Bower indicated the defense didn't play up to "our standard." He says too many big plays and too many yards were surrendered, causing the Golden Eagles to rank seventh among league teams in total defense.

"We've got to get people off the field quicker and we've got to eliminate the big plays," Bower says.

Returning defensive starters are ends Matthew Chatelain and Robert Henderson, linebackers Marcus Raines and Wayne Hardy, cornerback Caleb Hendrix and roverback Brandon Sumrall. Hendrix, a pure cover corner, missed much of last season with a pulled hamstring and participated in spring drills on a limited basis. Keep an eye on end Shadler Manning, who was Southern Miss' most improved defensive player in the spring.

"He's one of those guys we've just been kind of waiting for the light bulb to come on," Bower says. "Hopefully he will be able to carry that into the fall."

Special teams should be a strength. Kicker Darren McCaleb set single-season school records for field goals (23) and points (255) last season.

Head coach: Jeff Bower, 16th year (103-72-1)

Career record: 103-72-1

Assistant coaches: Randy Butler (asst. head coach/TEs), Jay Hopson (def coord./MLBs), Jay Johnson (off. coord./QBs), Courtney Messingham (WRs), Derrick Nix (RBs), Lytrell Pollard (DBs), Mitch Rodriguez (off. line), Fred Tate (OLBs), Bill Wilt (def line)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Faron Horne, WR, 5-7, 160

Floridian escaped in-state recruiters.

2 Ryan Ellis, WR, 6-2, 190

Another touted Sunshine State prospect.

3 Martevious Young, QB, 6-1, 178

Has tools to play at college level.

4 Anthony Gray, DL, 6-0, 302

In-state recruit could play early.

Vontre Mason, DE, 6-2, 270

Junior-college prospect seeks immediate time.



## MARSHALL THUNDERING HERD

PRESEASON RANK.

#3

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4	▲ 8
2004	8	▲ 8
2003	8	▲ 11
2002	11	▲ 11
2001	11	▲ 11

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Mark Snyder,  
2nd year (4-7)  
**Career record:** 4-7  
**Stadium:** Joan C. Edwards Stadium  
**Capacity:** 38,019  
**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.herdzone.com](http://www.herdzone.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@WEST VIRGINIA	
S.9	Hofstra	
S.16	@KANSAS STATE	19-21
S.23	@TENNESSEE	
S.30	IOWA	13-23
O.14	@SOUTHERN METH.	16-13 (OT)
O.21	@UAB	20-19
O.28	Memphis	3-26
N.4	Tulane	27-26
N.11	@EAST CAROLINA	29-34
N.18	UTEP	3-31
N.25	@SOUTHERN MISS	24-27 (OT)

## GAME TO WATCH

After facing a murderer's row of non-conference opponents, the Thundering Herd opens C-USA play with an ESPN2-televised game against the reigning Eastern Division champ.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19  
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/12

## OFFENSE

QB	14	Bernard Morris (6-4, 211, Jr.)
RB	44	Ahmad Bradshaw (5-11, 192, Jr.)
LT	73	Seth Cook (6-4, 332, Sr.)
LG	77	Zane Bruhn (6-6, 301, r-Fr.)
C	66	Doug Legursky (6-3, 311, Jr.)
MI	63	John Inman (6-5, 302, Jr.)
RT	78	Wesley Jones (6-5, 329, Sr.)
TE	13	Brian Shope (6-5, 248, Jr.)
WR	7	Hiram Moore (6-0, 195, Sr.)
WR	1	M. Fitzgerald (5-10, 202, Jr.)
WR	6	Shawn Lauzon (6-6, 204, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

LE	96	Albert McClellan (6-2, 225, So.)
LT	84	Adnan Davis (6-3, 263, Sr.)
RT	99	Juan Underwood (6-3, 323, Sr.)
RE	91	Shavar Greer (6-0, 226, Sr.)
SLB	21	Ian Hoskins (6-2, 245, So.)
MLB	55	Brandon Souder (6-2, 236, Sr.)
WLB	47	Matt Couch (6-2, 235, Sr.)
DB	8	James Johnson (5-11, 180, So.)
DB	15	Terrick Thomas (5-10, 155, So.)
FS	2	Jeremy Rodamer (6-0, 191, So.)
SS	25	Curtis Keyes (6-0, 206, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	49	Ian O'Connor (6-2, 205, Sr.)
P	31	Marty Biagi (6-0, 170, So.)

# UAB BLAZERS

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 C-USA

Texas Coach Mack Brown and UAB Coach Watson Brown are brothers. They have more than parents in common. Both spent spring drills trying to replace a special quarterback.

At Texas, that player was Vince Young. Maybe you watched him will the Longhorns to a Rose Bowl victory.

At UAB, that player was Darrell Hackney. Hackney was the guy who put the blaze in the Blazers' offense. He started 38 career games, passing for 9,886 yards and 71 touchdowns. And even though UAB struggled to a 5-6 record last season, Hackney still led the offense to a league-best 6.3 yards per snap.

Coch Watson Brown began auditioning replacement candidates in the spring and no verdict will be rendered until the fall. Senior Chris Williams is the only quarterback on campus who has taken a snap in a UAB uniform. Junior Sam Hunt is a transfer who got a taste of game duty at Middle Tennessee in 2004. Redshirt freshman Joseph Webb is also in the mix. The early word is Hunt is the best runner among the QB hopefuls.

Brown returns more than 50 lettermen and is blessed with his biggest senior class in 12 years at the helm. Fourteen starters are back, and so are at least 13 others who have started at least one game. If questions can be answered at the quarterback, receiver and center positions, UAB could regain a place in C-USA's upper echelon.

"Everything else looks to be very solid," Brown says. "We have depth here, we have good speed, we have a very strong offensive line. I think we have the best set of running backs in our league. I'm really pleased with our linebackers, our secondary and our ends. But those question marks are big question marks. It's an older team with some question marks because of inexperience at just a few spots ..."

Because of inexperience at the quarterback position, Brown may rely on the run more often than in the past. Returning backs Corey White, Dan Burks, Marcus Elliott and Trey Cheney have combined for career totals of 4,464 yards and 32 touchdowns.

New Defensive Coordinator Rick Christopher, who held the job when UAB led the nation in run defense in 2001, returns All-C-USA end Larry McSwain and three senior 'backers.



PRESEASON RANK:

#5

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

	CONFERENCE TITLE	BOWL	NATIONAL TITLE
2005	5		
2004	▲ 7		
2003	5		
2002	5		
2001	6		

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL \*

\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Watson Brown, 12th year (59-65)

Career record: 91-143-1

Stadium: Legion Field

Capacity: 72,000

Official athletic Web site: www.uabsports.com

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@OKLAHOMA	
S.9	East Carolina	23-31
S.16	@GEORGIA	
S.23	Mississippi State	
S.30	Troy	27-7
O.7	Memphis	37-20
O.14	@RICE	45-26
O.21	Marshall	19-20
O.28	@SMU	27-28
N.4	UTEP	35-23
N.11	@SOUTHERN MISS	28-37
N.18	@UCF	21-27

## \* GAME TO WATCH \*

This is the Blazers' only home appearance over their final four games, so they can't afford to lose it.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 5/17

## OFFENSE

QB	3	Sam Hunt (6-3, 215, Jr.)
FB	35	David Sigler (6-3, 250, Jr.)
RB	30	Corey White (6-2, 235, Sr.)
LT	70	Cornelius Rogers (6-4, 320, Sr.)
LG	69	Quinton Harris (6-4, 330, Sr.)
C	53	Jake Seitz (6-2, 300, r-Fr.)
RG	73	Alan Leon (6-4, 320, Sr.)
RT	78	Julius Wilson (6-5, 310, Sr.)
TE	81	Jordan Erwin (6-3, 245, Sr.)
WR	14	Willie Edwards (6-3, 215, Jr.)
WR	29	Nick Coon (6-2, 185, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	44	Larry McSwain (6-1, 255, Sr.)
NT	54	Clarence Respress (6-1, 320, Sr.)
DT	92	Brandon Jeffries (6-5, 255, So.)
DE	98	Jernome McEvien (6-5, 250, Sr.)
SLB	55	Marcus Mark (6-2, 230, Sr.)
MLB	41	Mastaku Smith (5-11, 230, Sr.)
WLB	11	Orlando King (6-3, 215, Sr.)
CB	21	Kevin Sanders (5-11, 185, So.)
CB	13	Will Evans (5-9, 175, Sr.)
FS	18	Will Dunbar (6-1, 195, Jr.)
SS	23	Chris Felder (5-10, 185, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	86	Parker Mullins (5-11, 180, Sr.)
P	86	Parker Mullins (5-11, 180, Sr.)

# EAST CAROLINA PIRATES

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, 4-4 C-USA

What did East Carolina Coach Skip Holtz inherit from his dad, the legendary Lou Holtz? Pirate fans hope the "second season" gene was passed from father to son.

Lou Holtz served as a coach at William & Mary, North Carolina State, Arkansas, Minnesota, Notre Dame and South Carolina. He took each of those programs to a postseason bowl game by his second season.

Skip Holtz is entering his second year as East Carolina's coach. In Season One, he guided the Pirates to a 5-6 record (their most wins since 2001) and striking offensive numbers, including the fourth-most passing yards in school history and a total-offense average that was among the 10 best in school history.

East Carolina could produce offensive pyrotechnics again. Senior quarterback James Pinkney is coming off a season in which he ranked 20th nationally in total offense. He was the only Conference USA player to earn league Player of the Week honors three times last season, and his 2,773 passing yards ranked as the fourth-best single-season total in school history. Only two players have passed for more career yards at ECU.

Pinkney's heaves often land in the hands of senior Aundrae Allison, a first-team all-league receiver who led C-USA and ranked fourth nationally in catches per game last season. He became the first player in school history to produce 1,000 receiving yards in a season (83 catches, 1,024 yards) and the first to accumulate five 100-yard receiving games in a season.

And then there is junior running back Chris Johnson, who is C-USA's returning leader in all-purpose yards. He led the Pirates in rushing yards (684) for a second consecutive season, was second in receiving yards (356) and averaged 21.9 yards per kickoff return.

So why isn't anyone picking East Carolina to be C-USA's beast of the East?

The Pirates must repopulate the offensive line, where guard Matt Butler and tackle Eric Graham are the only returning starters. Guard Josh Coffman, a 6-7, 288-pound former tight end, should be game-ready after redshirting last season.

A defense anchored by third-team all-league selection Marcus Hands must make improvements after ranking 112th nationally against the run.



PRESEASON RANK:

#6

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

	CONFERENCE TITLE	BOWL	NATIONAL TITLE
2005	5		
2004	2		
2003	1		
2002	4		
2001	▲ 6		

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL \*

\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Skip Holtz,

2nd year (5-6)

Career record: 5-6 (Division I-A)

Stadium: Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium

Capacity: 43,000

Official athletic Web site: www.ecupirates.com

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@NAVY	
S.9	@UAB	31-23
S.16	Memphis	24-27
S.23	West Virginia	15-20
O.7	Virginia	
O.14	Tulsa	13-45
O.21	Southern Methodist	24-17
O.28	@SOUTHERN MISS	7-33
N.4	@UCF	20-30
N.11	Marshall	34-29
N.18	@RICE	41-28
N.25	@N.C. STATE	

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Pirates lost by only five points in Morgantown last season.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 4/26

## OFFENSE

QB	7	James Pinkney (6-3, 211, Sr.)
FB	12	Kort Shankweiler (6-2, 228, Sr.)
RB	5	Chris Johnson (5-11, 184, Jr.)
OT	74	Terence Campbell (6-5, 320, r-Fr.)
OG	76	Josh Coffman (6-7, 288, Jr.)
C	61	Tom Wingenbach (6-6, 300, Sr.)
OG	68	Matt Butler (6-4, 308, Jr.)
OT	78	Eric Graham (6-6, 320, Sr.)
TE	3	Davon Drew (6-4, 237, So.)
WR	2	Aundrae Allison (6-1, 191, Sr.)
WR	80	Kevon Roach (6-4, 215, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	92	Marcus Hands (6-5, 274, Jr.)
NG	96	Mark Robinson (6-3, 275, Jr.)
DT	93	Brandon Setzer (6-6, 311, So.)
DE	55	Shauntae Hunt (6-5, 270, Sr.)
LB	49	Jeremy Chambliss (6-0, 216, r-Fr.)
LB	48	Durwin Lamb (6-1, 236, Jr.)
LB	50	Quentin Cotton (6-2, 223, Jr.)
CB	8	Travis Williams (5-10, 182, Jr.)
CB	17	Kasey Ross (6-0, 180, Sr.)
PS	17	Jamar Flomoy (6-0, 206, Sr.)
SS	4	Kyle Chase (5-8, 188, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	39	Robert Lee (5-11, 217, Sr.)
P	10	Ryan Dougherty (6-1, 227, Sr.)

# TULSA

## Kragthorpe has delivered on promise of Golden days for Hurricane in Tulsa

**S**tep into a time machine and go back to Dec. 18, 2002. That was the day Steve Kragthorpe was introduced as the University of Tulsa's new head football coach.

During his initial press conference, Kragthorpe said one of the reasons he was attracted to the job was because Tulsa had been successful in the past. And if a program can be successful once, it can be successful again.

He was right.

Last season, Kragthorpe guided Tulsa to its first conference championship since 1985 and first bowl victory since 1991.

It was a return to glory for a program that, despite a couple of lean decades, has ample tradition. In the 1940s, Tulsa became the first school to play in five consecutive New Year's Day bowl games. Coach Glen Dobbs revolutionized the college game in the 1960s with teams that led the nation in passing five consecutive seasons. The Golden Hurricane won four straight Missouri Valley Conference titles in the 1970s and six consecutive MVC crowns in the 1980s.

But the program was at low ebb (one victory over a Division I-A opponent in a two-year span) before Kragthorpe took over, and it was speculated that perhaps Tulsa had no business playing college football in this millennium.

No one is saying that anymore. Kragthorpe has two winning seasons in three years at the helm and Tulsa is poised for a continuation. The Golden Hurricane lost fewer lettermen than any team in C-USA's West Division.

Sure, one of the guys who was lost happens to be Garrett Mills, who produced more than a third of the team's receiving yards last season and set a 1-A record for receiving yards by a tight end. But Tulsa returns five all-league players (including four on defense), and should get a boost from a handful of guys who skipped last season for assorted reasons.

Kedrick Alexander was an All-WAC player in 2003 who led the Hurricane in tackles. He hasn't played since because of off-the-field issues, but is expected to return to duty this fall. Steve Craver, whose big brother played at Nebraska, produced two sacks and an interception in a game at Oklahoma last season before sustaining a season-ending injury. Randy Duncan and Ty Page, former heralded recruits who sat out last season, will try to work their way into the picture at safety along with Anthony Germany, who was fourth among C-USA players in tackles for losses last season.

A new face on offense will be Courtney Tennial, a record-setting high school running back who

### RATING THE RECRUTS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2 | Alonzo Wilson, DB, 6-0, 185                    |
|   | <i>Junior-college prospect should contend.</i> |
| 3 | Cameron Clemons, WR, 5-11, 170                 |
|   | <i>Late junior-college signee has promise.</i> |
| 4 | Jon Bell, DE, 6-1, 255                         |
|   | <i>Louisiana product is well-drilled.</i>      |
| 5 | Devin Adair, TE, 6-0, 225                      |
|   | <i>Californian seeks early playing time.</i>   |

# GOLDEN HURRICANE

Stadium: Skelly Stadium (40,385)

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	4
2003	8
2002	1
2001	1

### ■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL \* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Steve Kragthorpe, 4th year (21-17)

Career record: 21-17

Assistant coaches: Charlie Stubbs (asst. head coach/off. coord./QBs), Keith Patterson (def. coord./safeties), Mark Nelson (def. line), Brad Calip (RBs), Darin Enot (LBs), Derek Jones (CBs), Spencer Leftwich (off. line), Bob Schultz (WRs/special teams), Matt Weis (TEs/recruiting coord.)

### PRESEASON RANK:

# 1

OFFENSE	5
DEFENSE	5
SPECIAL TEAMS	5
COACHING	5

2005 Record: C-USA

9-4 6-2

(beat Fresno State in the Liberty Bowl, 31-24)

### 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE OPPONENT '05 RESULT

A.31	Stephen F. Austin	
S.9	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	
S.16	North Texas	54-2
S.23	@NAVY	

O.14	@EAST CAROLINA	45-13
O.21	@MEMPHIS	37-31 (OT)
O.27	UTEP	38-41
N.4	@HOUSTON	23-30
N.11	Rice	41-21
N.18	@SOUTHERN MICH.	20-13
N.24	Tulane	38-14

The Hurricane beat the Golden Eagles in Hattiesburg last season. ESPN2 will televise a Tuesday night rematch.

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17

Lettermen returning/lost: 42/15

### OFFENSE

QB 12	Paul Smith (6-2, 193, Jr.)
RB 20	Courtney Tennial (5-9, 214, r-Jr.)
LT 66	Mike Mengers (6-4, 280, Sr.)
LG 67	John Hameister-Ries (6-6, 308, Sr.)
C 56	Aaron Danenhauer (6-5, 302, Sr.)
RG 70	Rodnick Thomas (6-4, 347, r-Sr.)
RT 78	Jeff Perrett (6-7, 329, Sr.)
TE 30	Ted Curtis (6-1, 242, So.)
TE 88	Charles Ramsey (6-4, 254, Jr.)
WR 83	Ryan Bugg (6-0, 195, Sr.)
WR 80	dns Moss (5-10, 180, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

DE 95	Chadd Evans (6-4, 265, Jr.)
NG 90	Brandon Jones (6-2, 297, Jr.)
DE 93	Moton Hopkins (6-3, 275, So.)
SLB 41	Nick Bunting (6-1, 230, Sr.)
MLB 55	Nelson Coleman (6-2, 235, Jr.)
WLB 32	Chris Chamberlain (6-2, 225, Jr.)
BAN 2	Kedrick Alexander (6-2, 210, Sr.)
CB 10	Roy Roberts (5-11, 205, So.)
CB 22	Nick Graham (5-11, 191, Sr.)
FS 4	Bobby Blackshire (6-3, 205, Sr.)
SPUR 11	Anthony Germany (6-1, 211, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK 12	Jarrod Tracy (6-0, 165, Jr.)
P 5	Chris Kindred (5-11, 205, Sr.)

got tired of playing behind a fellow named Adrian Peterson at Oklahoma. Tennial transferred to Tulsa and, pound-for-pound, could be the strongest guy on the team, according to position coach Brad Calip. A tailback-by-committee approach worked for the Hurricane last season and it is expected that Tennial will share time with Brandon Diles and Tarrion Adams.

The main man on offense is Paul Smith. The guitar-strumming quarterback ranked 24th nationally in pass efficiency last season and did not throw an interception in the last four games, helping his team rank fourth nationally in turnover margin. The Hurricane led C-USA in scoring, third-down conversions and time of possession last season. Smith is convinced the beat will go on.

"I have plenty of confidence that I can play without Garrett, but we have to realize as a team that we're capable of having a good offense without him," Smith says.

Smith was a near-unanimous choice when C-USA coaches were polled on the subject of which league player is best under pressure. He may not face much pressure since four starting offensive linemen—Mike Mengers, John Hameister-Reis, Aaron Danenhauer and all-league selection Jeff Perrett—return. Seven offensive starters return from a unit that topped 30 points in nine of the last 10 games.

Tulsa was second among C-USA teams in total defense and third in scoring defense last season. The Hurricane led the league in takeaways (38) and harvested 30 sacks. Nine defensive starters are back, including the top six tacklers. Linebackers Nelson Coleman and Nick Bunting are returning all-league players, as are defensive backs Bobby Blackshire and Nick Graham, who ranked among the nation's interception leaders last season.

The defense will be led by a new coordinator. Keith Patterson was promoted from linebackers coach after Todd Graham left to become head coach at Rice and Tulsa also had to hire two other defensive assistants. Kragthorpe described the transition as seamless.

Tulsa will need to continue to be blessed in the turnover department in order to maintain positive momentum. The only losing season of the Kragthorpe regime came when the Hurricane had a negative turnover margin. Tulsa flirted with sweeping its final 11 games during last season's 9-4 campaign. The only defeats in that span were by seven points to Houston and three points to UTEP.

## UTEP

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	8
2004	8
2003	2
2002	2
2001	2

■ CONFERENCE TITLE   ▲ BOWL   ★ NATIONAL TITLE

Expect the Price to be right  
for QB Palmer's senior season

Finish is a word that ranks high on UTEP's priority list.

"One thing we have been saying is it's not how you start the race. It's how you finish the race," Coach Mike Price says.

UTEP began last season 8-1 and owned both a top 25 ranking and the inside track to C-USA's Western Division championship. The Miners then lost their last two regular-season games and were beaten by Toledo in the GMAC Bowl.

"Finishing has been a thing we talked about every day in spring ball and in winter conditioning and through the summer," Price says. "Fans remember the games in November and that's the truth."

Even though UTEP failed to close last season on a high note, the golden age of Miner football is now. The Miners are coming off consecutive eight-win seasons and back-to-back bowl trips for the first time in a half-century. Credit Price for changing the culture of a program that once rested at the bottom of college football's food chain.

"The players have done a great job," Price says. "The assistant coaches have done a great job of developing our players. But the community has just exploded with Miner mania. We get hundreds of people at our practice. It's every place you look now. They spent two solid hours yesterday on a sports talk radio show talking about our uniforms, what we should be wearing and where the stripes should go. Just three years ago, I'm not sure they knew what our schedule was. So it's really exciting to be involved with this—not just the football program or the school, but the whole community."

UTEP set school records for total home attendance and average home attendance last season. Miner football should be a hot ticket again in 2006 as Price has a team capable of contending for the C-USA championship. The Miners are stocked with 29 seniors, eight returning offensive starters and nine returning defensive starters. And because of the way they finished last season, players feel like they have something to prove.

"This team is going to be hungry," Price says.

Injuries played a role in UTEP's late-season stumble (quarterback Jordan Palmer was injured late in the first half of a lopsided bowl defeat). Palmer, younger brother of Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Carson Palmer, was the trigger man of an offense that led C-USA and ranked ninth nationally in passing yards last season.

Jordan Palmer enters his senior season as UTEP's career leader in total offense, passing yards and touchdown passes. He must do a better job of protecting the football if he wants to win a championship. He threw 19 interceptions last



PRESEASON RANK.

#2

## PREDICTING

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★

2005 Record:	8-4	C-USA	5-3
<i>(lost to Toledo in the GMAC Bowl, 45-13)</i>			

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE OPPONENT	RESULT
A.31 @SAN DIEGO STATE	
S.9 Texas Tech	21-13
S.23 @NEW MEXICO	34-17
S.30 New Mexico State	27-40
O.7 Southern Methodist	45-21
O.14 Tulane	44-41 (OT)
O.21 @HOUSTON	41-30
O.27 @TULSA	38-31
N.4 Rice	23-35
N.10 @UAB	31-3
N.18 @MARSHALL	20-27
N.25 Memphis	

## GAME TO WATCH

Tulsa got what UTEP wanted (a Western Division championship) last season. That subplot should make this collision interesting.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19  
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/21

## OFFENSE

QB	5	Jordan Palmer (6-5, 235, Sr.)
TB	8	Marcus Thomas (6-1, 215, Jr.)
LT	75	Oneil Cousins (6-4, 300, Jr.)
LG	61	Andy Smith (6-4, 300, Sr.)
C	62	Robby Felix (6-3, 290, So.)
RG	73	James Riley (6-2, 300, Jr.)
RT	57	Tyler Ribitzki (6-5, 300, So.)
TE	37	Jake Sears (6-3, 250, Jr.)
WR	1	Daniel Robinson (6-4, 200, Sr.)
WR	21	Johnnie Lee Higgins Jr. (6-0, 180, Sr.)
WR	12	Chris Day (5-9, 175, So.)

## DEFENSE

LE	47	Alex Obomese (6-3, 245, Sr.)
LT	56	Justin Hanek (6-4, 285, Sr.)
RT	63	Zach West (6-5, 295, Sr.)
RE	94	Joe Ward (6-4, 240, Sr.)
SLB	4	Jason McQuay (6-1, 210, Sr.)
MLB	44	Troy Collavo (6-0, 235, Sr.)
WLB	6	Jeremy Jones (6-1, 235, Sr.)
LCB	1	Nate Draughon (5-10, 175, Sr.)
RCB	2	Josh Ferguson (5-7, 185, Jr.)
FS	9	Quinton Demps (6-0, 215, Jr.)
SS	25	Joe Fleskoski (6-1, 200, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	49	Reagan Schneider (6-0, 180, Sr.)
P	7	Ryan Hotchkiss (6-2, 210, Sr.)

## MINERS

Stadium: Sun Bowl Stadium (51,500)

season, including eight during the season-ending three-game skid. Imagine what kind of season the Miners would have put together if they hadn't paced C-USA with 34 turnovers.

Price predicts Jordan will have a wonderful senior year.

"He's going into it a little bit differently," the coach says. "He's a neat guy because he has a real outgoing personality and he's involved in a lot of things. He plays golf. He is a good musician. He does a lot of things. He's an all-around type of athlete. I think that is all good and well, being well-adjusted. But to take the next step, he's got to be focused on being a better quarterback and not get sidetracked."

Receiver Johnnie Lee Higgins Jr. and running back Marcus Thomas are among the top skill-position players returning to an offense that averaged 31.8 points and 422.8 yards per game last season.

Only one player in UTEP history has caught more touchdown passes than Higgins, who reeled in 49 balls for 837 yards last year. Thomas, a former Parade All-American, got a chance to be a go-to guy late last season because running backs Tyler Ebell and Matt Austin sustained injuries. Thomas responded, setting a school record with four consecutive 100-yard games. Offensive line starters Robby Felix, James Riley and Tyler Ribitzki return to block for Thomas.

The Miners will break in new starters at one linebacker position and one defensive tackle spot, but every other defensive starter returns. Lineman Alex Obomese and linebacker Troy Collavo received all-conference honors last season and linebacker Jeremy Jones, who ranked third-among C-USA players with 130 tackles, will challenge for all-league honors this season.

Price says his secondary should be vastly improved because of the experience level. Defensive backfield starters Nate Draughon, Joe Fleskoski, Quintin Demps and Josh Ferguson are back, as are defensive tackle Zach West and defensive end Joe Ward.

UTEP was 10-2 at home the last two seasons and will get a chance to make an early statement when Texas Tech visits Sun Bowl Stadium Sept. 9. The Miners, who were .500 on the road last year, play four of their last six away from El Paso.

**Head coach: Mike Price, 3rd year (16-8)**

**Career record: 145-130**

**Assistant coaches:** Tim Hundley (def. coord.), Eric Price (off. coord.), Lawrence Livingston Sr. (asst. head coach/off. line), Jeff Banks (RBs/punters/recruiting coord.), Aaron Price (QBs/kickers), Kalka Ma Ioe (def. tackles), Tim Duffie (def. ends), Jim Clark (CBs), Jeff Woodruff (safeties/special teams coord.)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Trevor Vittles (6-3, 200)  
Athlete of the Year, Texas state prep champs.

- Kyle Petersen, P, 6-4, 220
- Californian one of top prep punters.
- Donald Buckram, RB, 5-10, 180
- Texan has shown great promise.
- James Thomas, QB, 5-11, 185
- Signal-caller could contend for job.
- Elijah Goldtrap, TE, 6-5, 255
- Another California prospect.



# HOUSTON COUGARS

PRESEASON RANK.

#3

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	3
2003	▲ 7
2002	5
2001	

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Art Briles, 4th year  
(16-20) **Career record:** 16-20  
**Stadium:** John O'Quinn Field at Robertson Stadium  
**Capacity:** 32,000  
**Official athletic Web site:** [www.uhcougars.com](http://www.uhcougars.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@RICE	35-18
S.9	Tulane	35-14
S.16	Grambling State	
S.23	Oklahoma State	
S.30	@MIAMI (FL)	
O.7	Louisiana-Lafayette	
O.14	@SOUTHERN MISS	27-24
O.21	UTEP	41-44 (OT)
O.28	UCF	29-31
N.4	Tulsa	30-23
N.11	@SOUTHERN MICH.	24-29
N.18	@MEMPHIS	20-35

## GAME TO WATCH

Houston could be playing for high stakes in a regular-season finale and Memphis was the only C USA team to beat the Cougars by double digits last year.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 4/20

## OFFENSE

QB	4	Kevin Kolb (6-3, 225, Sr.)
RB	27	Jackie Battle (6-2, 250, Sr.)
LT	74	SirVincent Rogers (6-3, 305, Jr.)
LG	77	Jeff Akeroyd (6-3, 300, Jr.)
CE	67	Sterling Doh (6-1, 297, Sr.)
RG	66	Byron Alfred (6-2, 290, Jr.)
RT	73	Dustin Dickenson (6-3, 300, Jr.)
TE	87	Mark Hafner (6-3, 220, So.)
WR	86	Biren Early (6-3, 195, Sr.)
WR	2	Donnie Avery (5-11, 185, Jr.)
SL	17	Vincent Marshall (5-8, 175, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

LE	56	Cody Pree (6-2, 300, So.)
NT	99	Marquay Love (6-0, 320, Sr.)
RE	53	Phillip Hunt (6-1, 250, So.)
OLB	1	Wade Koehl (6-2, 230, Sr.)
WLB	34	Cody Lubojsky (6-3, 235, So.)
MLB	41	Trent Allen (6-2, 244, Jr.)
OLB	3	Brendan Pahulu (6-3, 225, Jr.)
CB	10	Willie Gaston (5-11, 185, Sr.)
CB	28	Kenneth Fontenette (6-0, 175, So.)
FS	18	Will Gulley (6-3, 215, Sr.)
SS	20	Rocky Schwartz (5-11, 195, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	14	Ben Bell (5-11, 160, So.)
P	2	Justin Laird (6-2, 200, Sr.)



# SMU MUSTANGS

PRESEASON RANK.

#4

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	3
2003	
2002	3
2001	4

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Phil Bennett, 5th year (11-35)  
**Career record:** 11-35  
**Stadium:** Gerald J. Ford Stadium  
**Capacity:** 32,000  
**Official athletic Web site:** [www.smumustangs.com](http://www.smumustangs.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@TEXAS TECH	
S.9	■ NORTH TEXAS	
S.16	Sam Houston State	
S.23	Arkansas State	
S.30	@TULANE	10-31
O.7	@UTEP	40-27
O.14	Marshall	13-16 (OT)
O.21	@EAST CAROLINA	17-24
O.28	UAB	28-27
N.4	Houston	29-24
N.11	Tulsa	13-20
N.18	@RICE	27-7

## GAME TO WATCH

This is a dangerous game for SMU. The Mustangs will be under pressure to beat a "little brother" from nearby Denton.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 4/14

## OFFENSE

QB	16	Justin Willis (6-1, 197, r-Fr.)
RB	8	DeMyron Martin (6-2, 215, So.)
LT	33	Rochael Massey (5-11, 215, So.)
LG	58	Darin Johnson (6-6, 295, Sr.)
CE	67	Tommy Poynter (6-4, 285, So.)
RG	66	Ben Poynter (6-4, 285, Jr.)
RT	50	Caleb Peveto (6-4, 295, Jr.)
TE	76	Kenard Burley (6-5, 305, Jr.)
WR	89	Ryan Kennedy (6-5, 265, Sr.)
WR	82	Bobby Chase (6-4, 205, Sr.)
WR	2	Blake Warren (5-7, 180, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

LE	11	Cory Muse (6-3, 240, Jr.)
NG	56	Brandon Bonds (6-1, 300, Sr.)
DT	60	Adrian Haywood (6-3, 280, Sr.)
RE	40	Justin Rogers (6-4, 265, Sr.)
SLB	32	Paul Hiemerz (6-2, 225, So.)
MLB	53	Reggie Carrington (6-2, 235, Jr.)
WLB	5	Wilton McCray (6-0, 205, Jr.)
CB	24	Cortley Blackmon (5-10, 185, Jr.)
CB	21	Jonathan Lindley (6-0, 185, Jr.)
FS	10	Randall Good (5-11, 190, Sr.)
SS	29	Joe Sturdivant (6-2, 210, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	12	Thomas Morstead (6-4, 210, So.)
P	12	Thomas Morstead (6-4, 210, So.)

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, 4-4 C-USA

Is there a dark horse in C-USA's Western Division? Look no further than the squad with horses on its helmets.

SMU appears to be riding an elevator that is going up. Sure, the Mustangs went only 5-6 last season.

But consider this: They won their most games since 1997. They closed with a three-game winning streak for the first time since 1999. They went 3-1 against bowl qualifiers. And they beat a ranked opponent (TCU) for the first time since 1986.

Winless as recently as 2003, SMU made enough progress to help Coach Phil Bennett land a contract extension through 2009.

"Our strong finish to the 2005 season only strengthened my belief that Phil Bennett is the man who will lead us to Conference USA titles and bowl games in the years to come," then-Athletic Director Jim Copeland (since retired) said when he announced the extension.

Bennett appreciated the vote of confidence, but says he is not satisfied. He wants to turn the program into a consistent winner and expressed excitement about 2006.

"If you look how close we were last season, it's clear that we're improving as a football team," he says. "Now we just have to take that next step. I think that we'll take that step this season."

Bennett got the job because of dandy work as a defensive assistant at high-profile programs and SMU fielded C-USA's second-best rushing defense last season. All four starting defensive linemen—Justin Rogers, Cory Muse, Adrian Haywood and Brandon Bonds—return. Rogers and Haywood were all-league selections last season, as was safety Joe Sturdivant. Muse made big plays in a season-ending upset of UTEP that clinched a trip to the C-USA title game for Tulsa. Muse was happy for former high school teammate Nick Graham, a Tulsa defensive back, but he wants his team to be the one pursuing a crown this year.

Eight starters, including Freshman All-America running back DeMyron Martin and all-league receiver Bobby Chase, return to a unit that exploded for 96 points in the last three games (including consecutive conquests of bowl-bound UTEP and Houston teams). The quarterback job was up for grabs in spring drills.

# TULANE GREEN WAVE

2005 Record: 2-9 overall, 1-7 C-USA

The story of Tulane's 2005 season was \$2,000.

In a Conference USA spring football prospectus, the league's media relations office used a bunch of seldom-stroked typewriter keys to indicate where the Green Wave played "home" games in Louisiana last season (example: \$-Baton Rouge, #Ruston and #-Shreveport).

It was a season unlike any other in college football history. Members of the Tulane football squad evacuated New Orleans on Aug. 28, one day before Hurricane Katrina ravaged the city. It began a road trip that never ended. Tulane student-athletes were relocated to other campuses and the Green Wave was forced to play every football game away from home.

Tulane won Disney's Wide World of Sports Spirit Award, given annually to college football's most inspirational student-athlete or team, but the Green Wave didn't win many games. Coach Chris Scelfo's team went 2-9 and will enter 2006 with an eight-game losing streak.

All nine of Tulane's assistant coaches returned, even though four lost homes or suffered extensive damage to homes due to Hurricane Katrina. There are bigger priorities than football nowadays in New Orleans, but Scelfo's staff is going about the business of restoring normalcy.

Tulane will play its first game in the Superdome since 2004 when SMU comes to New Orleans on Sept. 30.

By then, perhaps quarterback Lester Ricard will be back to his old self. Ricard enters his senior season as the seventh-leading passer in school history, but he was benched last season when the offense failed to click. In national statistics, the Green Wave ranked 44th in passing yards, but 95th in total offense, 92nd in scoring and 112th in rushing yards.

Perhaps Matt Forte, who scooted for 137 yards in a season finale and 156 yards in the spring game, will upgrade a running attack that was C-USA's worst in yards per carry, yards per game and rushing first downs.

Preston Brown did not catch a pass in his first two seasons, but led Tulane in almost every receiving category last year and was named third-team all-league. He is among seven returning offensive starters.

Five starters are back for a defense that ranked third in C-USA.



PRESEASON RANK:

#5

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	<b>2</b>
2004	<b>5</b>
2003	<b>5</b>
2002	<b>8</b>
2001	<b>3</b>

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Chris Scelfo,  
8th year (33-49)  
**Career record:** 33-49  
**Stadium:** Louisiana Superdome  
**Capacity:** 69,767  
**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.tulanegreenwave.com](http://www.tulanegreenwave.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
5.9	@HOUSTON	14-35
5.16	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	14-21
5.23	@LSU	
5.30	Southern Miss	31-10
6.7	Rice	34-42
6.14	@UTEP	21-45
6.21	@AUBURN	
6.28	Army	
7.4	@MARSHALL	26-27
7.11	Southern Miss	7-26
7.18	UCF	24-34
7.24	@TULSA	14-38

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

*The Wave played every game on the road because of Hurricane Katrina last year and open this season with a three-game road trip. This is their return to the dome.*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/16

## OFFENSE

QB	B	Lester Ricard (6-5, 222, r-Sr.)
FB	23	Ade Tayo (5-11, 203, Jr.)
RB	25	Matt Forte (6-1, 224, Jr.)
LT	77	Troy Kropog (6-4, 287, r-Sr.)
LG	51	Aryan Barto (6-4, 262, r-Jr.)
C	65	Michael Parenton (6-3, 292, r-Sr.)
RG	66	Donald Madlock (6-4, 295, r-Sr.)
RT	66	Derek Rogers (6-5, 309, r-Sr.)
TE	19	Jerome Landry (6-4, 260, r-Sr.)
WR	11	Damarcus Davis (6-0, 188, r-Sr.)
WR	81	Preston Brown (6-4, 232, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	57	Antonio Harris (6-2, 271, Jr.)
DT	93	Taurean Brown (6-6, 280, r-Sr.)
DT	90	Alvin Johnson (6-3, 300, r-Sr.)
DE	94	Sean Carney (6-3, 240, So.)
SLB	17	Terence Peterson (5-11, 215, r-Sr.)
MLB	44	Jordan Ellis (6-1, 235, So.)
WLB	48	James Dillard (5-1, 220, So.)
CB	21	Jeremy Foreman (6-2, 172, r-Sr.)
CB	4	Israel Route (5-9, 184, Sr.)
FS	14	Carlis Jackson (6-0, 178, r-Sr.)
SS	38	Joe Goosby (6-0, 203, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	29	Barrett Pepper (5-10, 193, Jr.)
P	45	Chris Beckman (6-2, 202, r-Sr.)

## HOUSTON

# RICE OWLS

2005 Record: 1-10 overall, 1-7 C-USA



PRESEASON RANK:

#6

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	<b>1</b>
2004	<b>3</b>
2003	<b>5</b>
2002	<b>4</b>
2001	<b>8</b>

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Todd Graham, 1st year  
**Career record:** 0-0  
**Stadium:** Rice Stadium  
**Capacity:** 70,000  
**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.niceowls.com](http://www.niceowls.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
5.2	Houston	18-35
5.9	@UCLA	21-63
5.16	Texas*	10-51
5.23	@FLORIDA STATE	
5.30	@ARMY	
6.7	@TULANE	42-34
6.14	LA	26-45
6.21	@JCF	28 31
6.24	@UTEP	31-38
N.11	@TULSA	21-41
N.18	East Carolina	28-41
N.25	Southern Methodist	7-27

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

*New Owls Coach Todd Graham, the former Tulsa defensive coordinator, will cross paths with his former players and staff mates.*

\* at Houston

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16

Lettermen returning/lost: 46/19

## OFFENSE

QB	16	Chase Clement (6-1, 185, So.)
FB	32	Trey Hopson (5-9, 225, Fr.)
TB	44	Quinton Smith (5-11, 200, Sr.)
LT	68	Lute Barber (6-7, 300, Jr.)
LG	72	Robby Heas (6-3, 300, Jr.)
C	73	Austin Wilkinson (6-1, 275, So.)
RG	52	David Perkins (6-3, 275, Jr.)
RT	50	Rolf Krueger (6-4, 290, Sr.)
TE	88	Will Moss (6-4, 255, So.)
WR	81	Jared Dillard (5-11, 170, So.)
WR	83	Gary Anderson (6-0, 175, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	58	Jonathan Cary (6-3, 285, Jr.)
NG	99	George Chukwu (6-1, 305, Sr.)
DE	98	Courtney Gordon (6-4, 250, Sr.)
SPL	29	Carl Taylor (6-2, 185, So.)
SLB	4	Marcus Rucker (6-0, 215, Sr.)
MLB	36	Vernon James (6-0, 215, So.)
WL	3	Brian Raines (5-11, 195, So.)
CB	15	Brandon King (5-8, 175, So.)
CB	9	JaCorey Shepherd (5-11, 175, So.)
BAN	21	Chad Price (6-0, 205, Sr.)
FS	2	Andray Downs (5-9, 185, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	41	Luke Juist (6-0, 200, Jr.)
P	85	Jared Scruggs (6-2, 190, Sr.)



Predicted order of finish

p. 86  
STOCK UPp. 88  
STOCK DOWNp. 90  
STOCK STEADYp. 92  
STOCK DOWNp. 94  
STOCK STEADYp. 95  
STOCK DOWNp. 96  
STOCK STEADYp. 96  
STOCK UPp. 97  
STOCK STEADYp. 97  
STOCK UP

## RATING THE PLAYERS:

<b>Fastest receiver</b>	Steve Smith, USC
<b>Best hands</b>	Jason Hill, WR, Washington State
<b>Best passing QB</b>	Sam Keller, Arizona State
<b>Best running QB</b>	Isaiah Stanback, Washington

<b>Most elusive RB</b>	Marshawn Lynch, California
<b>Best instincts</b>	Zach Miller, TE, Arizona State
<b>Best athlete</b>	Dwayne Jarrett, WR, USC
<b>Best under pressure</b>	Alexis Serna, PK, Oregon State

<b>Top NFL prospect</b>	Brandon Mebane, DT, California
<b>Top impact freshman</b>	Stafon Johnson, TB, USC
<b>Hardest hitter</b>	Desmond Bishop, LB, California
<b>Biggest underachiever</b>	Matt Moore, QB, Oregon State

## With no Leinarts to be found at QB, conference race should be a free-for-all

By JON WILNER  
*San Jose Mercury News*

It's usually easy to predict the Pacific-10 Conference champion. Just identify the all-league quarterback and pick his team. Not only did it happen last season, when Matt Leinart led USC to the title, it has happened 11 of the past 12 seasons. The stretch began with Danny O'Neil and Oregon in '94, skipped the ensuing season, then continued 10 consecutive years.

It makes perfect sense, really. The Pac-10 has always been a quarterback's league. The weather lends itself to throwing the ball in November, when Big Ten and Big 12 teams turn to their ground games because of frigid, windy conditions. The gurus of the West Coast and spread offenses, Bill Walsh and Jack Elway, respectively, coached in California, and their disciples have dominated the Pac-10 coaching ranks for decades.

And for whatever reason, the demographics out west—an endless supply of quarterbacks and receivers but relatively few dominant defensive linemen—seem to favor the passing game.

Most years, it's easy to pick the all-conference quarterback: just find the most accomplished

returning player and ink him in. But this season, it's not so simple.

The top returnee is probably Arizona State's Sam Keller, who threw 20 touchdowns in eight games last season before injuring his thumb. His replacement, Rudy Carpenter, led the nation in passing efficiency in his limited action, and they'll compete for the job. Keller is the favorite, but hardly a lock to start the opener. What's more, the defensively challenged Sun Devils could hardly be considered the favorite even if Keller's spot was secure.

USC has the best overall talent, but its starting quarterback, John David Booty, is stepping into the spotlight for the first time.

Cal is loaded at the skill positions and has arguably the league's best defense, but the Bears also lack a proven passer.

Meanwhile, the veteran quarterbacks—Stanford's Trent Edwards, Oregon State's Matt Moore and Washington State's Alex Brink, to name three—are paired with flawed teams.

In other words, there's no obvious pick for an all-league quarterback and, consequently, no clear favorite to win the league.

It should be a fun fall.

## 5 STARS TO WATCH

Is USC quarterback John David Booty ready for prime time? Booty is expected to replace Matt Leinart at the helm of the Trojan offense. If he's not ready, USC might actually lose more than one game.

Who's going to direct Cal's attack? Nate Longshore and Joe Ayoob will compete for the starting quarterback job in training camp. If either emerges as an elite passer, the Bears could win the league.

Can Arizona State avoid a midseason slump? The Sun Devils have all the parts for a little run, but they must avoid the kind of October swoon that has doomed them in the past.

Will Tyrone Willingham pull Washington out of the cellar? The once-proud Huskies have won one conference game the past two years. If they're competitive, the league takes on a different complexion.

Who's going to play tailback for USC? There's no Reggie Bush and no LenDale White, and most of the veterans are either injured or ineligible. Will a true freshman win the job?

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

1. USC: Like someone was going to supplant the Trojans as No. 1? Pete Carroll signed 13 of scout.com's top 100 players.

2. CALIFORNIA: Jeff Tedford needed to bolster his defensive line, and he did with tackles Derrick Hill and Mike Costanzo.

3. UCLA: The class looks good until you compare it to the one across town. Long Beach Poly WR Terrence Austin is a major talent.

4. ARIZONA: Stud cornerback Devin Ross is the biggest name in a big class that is heavy on SoCal prospects.

5. WASHINGTON: The best way to rebuild is with an elite quarterback, and the Huskies got one in Jake Locker.

6. ARIZONA STATE: Could be one of Dirk Koetter's best classes, but he once again went heavy on jucos.

7. STANFORD: A few late signees, including defensive tackle Sione Fua, turned this into the Cardinal's best class in several years.

8. OREGON STATE: The best of a mediocre class is probably defensive tackle Dorian Smith, a JC transfer who should help immediately.

9. OREGON: A substandard class (for this program) includes three quarterbacks and OL Fenoli Tupou, who had offers from Cal and Nebraska.

10. WASHINGTON STATE: You try recruiting kids to Pullman. Cougars suffer when they don't get the best in-state kids—which they didn't.

-10 TEAM	
OFFENSE	
QB	Sam Keller, Sr., Arizona State
RB	Marshawn Lynch, Jr., Cal
RB	Jonathan Stewart, So., Oregon
OL	Sam Baker, Jr., USC
OL	Ryan Kalil, Sr., USC
OL	Enoka Lucas, Sr., Oregon
OL	Shannon Tevaga, Jr., UCLA
OL	Andrew Camahan, Sr., Arizona State
WR	Jason Hill, Sr., Washington State
WR	Dwayne Jarrett, Jr., USC
TE	Zach Miller, Jr., Arizona State
PK	Alexis Serna, Jr., Oregon State

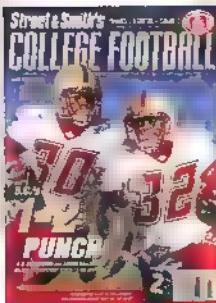
DEFENSE	
DL	Lawrence Jackson, Jr., USC
DL	Brandon Mebane, Sr., Cal
DL	Mikrosti Bruce, Sr., Washington State
DL	Niu'u Tafisi, Sr., Cal
LB	Keith Rivers, Jr., USC
LB	Desmond Bishop, Sr., Cal
LB	Scott Davis, Sr., Washington State
DB	Daymeson Hughes, Sr., Cal
DB	Antoine Cason, Jr., Arizona
DB	J.D. Nelson, Sr., Oregon
DB	Sabby Piscitelli, Sr., Oregon State
P	Nick Folk, Sr., Arizona

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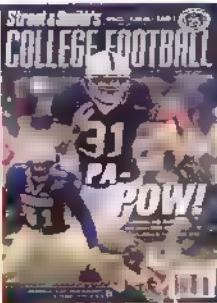
**REGION 1**

Cover: L.V. Whitworth and Andre Callender (Boston College)  
Inset: Ricky Santos (New Hampshire)



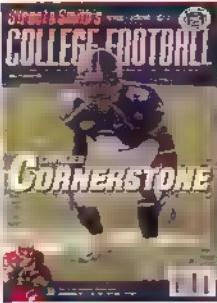
**REGION 2**

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Inset: Turner Gill (Buffalo.)



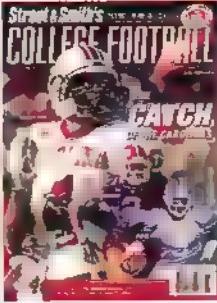
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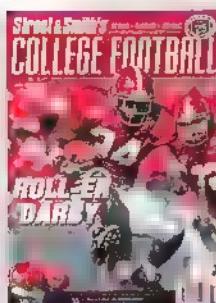
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Inset: Lance Ball (Maryland)



**REGION 5**

Cover: Sidney Rice (South Carolina),  
Chase Stucky (Clemson) and  
Jesse Holley (UNC) Inset: Marques  
Murrell (Appalachian St.)



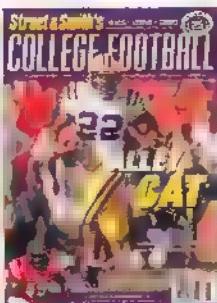
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Inset: Quentin Moses (Georgia)



**REGION 7**

Cover: Brady Quinn (Notre Dame)  
Inset: Michael Bush (Louisville)



**REGION 8**

Cover: Alley Broussard (LSU)  
Inset: Patrick Willis (Ole Miss)



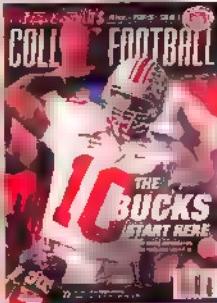
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Cover: Chris Leak (Florida), Drew  
Weatherford (Florida State) and  
Kyle Wright (Miami)



**REGION 10**

Cover: Michael Griffin (Texas)  
Inset: Dennis Franchione  
(Texas A&M)



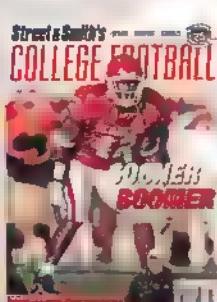
**REGION 11**

Cover: Troy Smith (Ohio State),  
Inset: Pierre Thomas (Illinois)



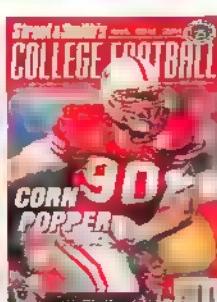
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Cover: Chad Henne (Michigan),  
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**REGION 13**

Cover: Rufus Alexander (Oklahoma)  
Inset: Dan Hawkins (Colorado)



**REGION 14**

Cover: Adam Carriker (Nebraska)  
Inset: Drew Tate (Iowa) and Bret  
Meyer (Iowa State)



**REGION 15**

Cover: Jason Hu (Washington State)  
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BERKELEY

# CALIFORNIA

## Bears appear primed to knock Southern Cal off its Pac-10 perch

**C**oach Jeff Tedford has been so good in his four years at Berkeley that the Bears, who were 1-10 before he arrived, now win eight games in a rebuilding year. But Tedford has not been perfect. For instance, consider his timing: it's been terrible. He has turned the Bears into a league-title contender during the same four-year stretch in which Pete Carroll turned USC into a national-title winner.

Had Tedford worked his magic for the Bears during any other stretch in the past 20 years in the Pac-10, he probably would have won the championship.

But the Trojans of 2002-05 were just too good.

Which brings us to 2006—and the opportunity long-suffering Bears fans have been waiting for since Cal's last Rose Bowl appearance, in 1959. Tedford, not Carroll, just might have the team to beat.

"We're a different team this season," Tedford says. "We are a year older after being very young last season. But we need to continue to build team chemistry and gain knowledge and experience. There is a lot of potential in a lot of places."

To get Cal to the top of the standings, Tedford must resolve three issues—the most pressing of which is identifying a starting quarterback. There are four candidates but only two legitimate contenders: sophomore Nate Longshore, who won the job last summer but suffered a season-ending leg injury in the 2005 opener, and senior Joe Ayoob, who replaced the injured Longshore, played well initially, then struggled and was ultimately benched.

While Longshore was not 100 percent for spring practice—he was a step slow because the injury, a broken bone in his lower leg—Ayoob looked more comfortable with Tedford's offense than he did last fall. After the spring game, Tedford announced that Longshore would take the first snap in training camp, but beyond that he couldn't say. Don't be surprised if Ayoob overtakes Longshore, but chances are that both will see significant action during the season.

Longshore is bigger and has a slightly better arm, but Ayoob is more mobile, and that should serve him well in Cal's system. Which brings us to Tedford's second issue: installing a new offense.

OK, it's not totally new. Tedford hired Northwestern Offensive Coordinator Mike Dunbar to incorporate the spread offense. Their plan is to create a hybrid attack that uses both systems to make the most of Cal's talent.

And there's plenty of that. In juniors Marshawn Lynch and Justin Forsett, Cal has one of the top

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- 1 Kevin Riley, QB, 6-2, 200  
*Emerged as top prospect in the last year.*
- 2 Derrick Hill Jr., DL, 6-2, 280  
*Promising down lineman from back yard.*
- 3 Darian Hagan, DB, 5-11, 180  
*Prep posse thief has nose for the ball.*
- 4 James Montgomery, RB, 6-0, 205  
*In-state prep star should contribute.*
- 5 Tracy Slocum, RB, 5-11, 195  
*Another touted in-state runner.*



PRESEASON RANK.

# 1

### POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	
DEFENSE	
SPECIAL TEAMS	
COACHING	

2005 Record.

**8-4**

PAC-10.

**4-4**

(beat BYU in the Las Vegas Bowl, 35-28)

### 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
9/2	@TENNESSEE	
9/9	Minnesota	
9/16	Portland State	
9/23	Arizona State	
9/30	@OREGON STATE	20-23
10/7	Oregon	20-27 (OT)
10/14	@WASHINGTON STATE	42-38
10/21	Washington	56-17
10/28	UCLA	40-47
11/4	@ARIZONA	28-0
11/11	@USC	10-35
11/18	Stanford	27-3

### \* GAME TO WATCH \*

*Pac-10 title could be on the line. The last time the teams met in the Coliseum, it went to the wire.*

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18  
Lettermen returning/lost: 53/20

#### OFFENSIVE

QB	9	Nate Longshore (6-5, 230, So.)
FB	38	Byron Storer (6-1, 227, Sr.)
RB	10	Marshawn Lynch (5-11, 223, Jr.)
LT	79	Mike Tepper (6-6, 334, So.)
LG	75	Erik Robertson (6-2, 311, Sr.)
C	62	Alex Mack (6-5, 295, So.)
RG	55	Noris Malele (6-4, 298, So.)
RT	52	Scott Smith (6-4, 276, Sr.)
TE	82	Craig Stevens (6-5, 255, Jr.)
WR	11	Robert Jordan (5-11, 166, Jr.)
WR	1	DeSean Jackson (6-0, 160, So.)

#### DEFENSIVE

DE	43	Abu Ma'afo'a (6-4, 281, Sr.)
DT	69	Matthew Maelie (6-3, 333, Jr.)
DT	52	Brandon Mebane (6-3, 306, Sr.)
DE	53	Nu'u Tafisi (6-2, 260, Sr.)
OLB	15	Anthony Felder (6-3, 229, So.)
MLB	10	Desmond Bishop (6-2, 243, Sr.)
WLB	1	Worrell Williams (6-0, 257, So.)
CB	13	Dayneion Hughes (6-2, 188, Sr.)
CB	22	Tim Mixon (5-10, 187, Sr.)
FS	5	Thomas DeCoud (6-3, 200, Jr.)
ROV	3	Brandon Hampton (5-10, 187, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	.5	Tom Schneider (6-0, 194, Jr.)
P		Andrew Larson (6-1, 190)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

# GOLDEN BEARS

Stadium: California Memorial Stadium (67,537)

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005		B
2004		10
2003		8
2002		7
2001	1	

### ■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL \* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Jeff Tedford, 5th year (33-17)

Career record: 33-17

Assistant coaches: Bob Gregory (def. coord.), Ken Delgado (def. line), Bob Foster (LBs), Mike Dunbar (off. coord.), Pete Alamar (TEs/special teams), Ron Gould (RBs), Dan Ferrigno (WRs), Jim Michalzik (Off. line)

tailback tandems in the country. Lynch, a potential Heisman candidate with astounding balance, rushed for 1,246 yards last season despite missing all or parts of three games. It was the third-highest rushing total in Cal history. In the Bears' last five games, when Lynch was completely healthy, he rushed for 753 yards and an average of 150.6 per game.

Forsett, who gained 999 yards last year, is a pretty fair backup. He averaged 7.6 yards per rush while filling in for Lynch. And as if that isn't enough, senior Marcus O'Keith is also capable of big plays, having averaged 11 yards on 22 carries last season, including a team-best 71-yard run.

Cal finished ninth nationally in rushing last year, averaging 235.3 yards per game. The



Bears have gone four straight seasons with a 1,000-yard rusher.

The Bears are loaded at receiver as well, with sophomore DeSean Jackson—as good a play-maker as there is in the conference—and juniors Robert Jordan and Lavelle Hawkins. Whether it's Longshore or Ayoob behind center, he'll have plenty of places to go with the ball. But will the quarterback have time to throw, and will the tailbacks have lanes to run through?

Tedford's third issue is rebuilding the offensive line. Cal lost four starters, two of whom were all conference performers: center Marvin Phillip and tackle Ryan O'Callaghan. Because of a series of injuries last season, many of the backups received extensive playing time. But are they, as a group, ready to take on the league's best defensive lines?

Sophomore center Alex Mack not only has a new role but a new task: He must snap out of the shotgun when the Bears use the spread. And the likely starter at left tackle, Mike Tepper, missed last season after his leg was run over by a car.

What makes Cal a title contender is not the offense but its defense, which should be the league's best. Seven starters return, including three of the best players at their position in the conference.

Tackle Brandon Mebane, a likely first-round pick in next year's NFL Draft, might be the most dominant physical presence in the league, an interior lineman who requires constant double teams.

"Brandon is a force inside that you can't really address one-on-one," Tedford says. "He can be a dominating factor, no doubt about it. He really helps our linebackers because he draws so much attention."

Mebane will be joined on the line by returning ends Nu'u Tafisi, Abu Ma'afala and Phillip Mbakogu and tackle Matthew Malele.

Middle linebacker Desmond Bishop, a second-team all-league pick, led the Bears with 89 tackles last season. He, too, has talent and experience around him. Sophomores Worrell Williams and Anthony Felder are budding playmakers. On the other side is Mickey Pimentel, who came on strong at the end of last season after transferring from junior college.

Cornerback Daymeion Hughes is also one of the league's best (5 interceptions last season). The other side is in good hands as well, with Tim Mixon. But the Bears must replace both of their starting safeties, which is Defensive Coordinator Bob Gregory's major concern.

"The general thought is that with so many people returning, you can do a lot more on defense," Tedford says. "But I'm not always sure that more is better. I do think that with our returning experience, we can do a good job of eliminating mistakes."

If Cal can solidify its coverage units—and that's a big question, given the way they performed last season—the special teams could be top notch. Mixon is a talented punt returner, and Tedford has indicated he'll use Jackson in that role as well. Kicker Tom Schneider is back for his junior season.

The schedule features five games against teams that made bowl appearances last season. The Bears must come out of the gate in a hurry, as they open on the road Sept. 2 with Tennessee and then come back home the next week to host Minnesota.



## NEXT BIG THING

### BRANDON MEBANE, senior defensive tackle

For Brandon Mebane, ambition is a virtue. How else to explain his postgame speech at the Las Vegas Bowl last December?

"Next year, national championship!" the 300-pound defensive tackle told fans while celebrating a win over Brigham Young.

Mebane is sure to do his part in Cal's quest this season, anchoring the defensive line once again after turning in an all conference performance during 2005.

"He is a dominant player," says Cal Coach Jeff Tedford. "He does a great job for us inside. He constantly demands double-teams and he is a guy you have to game-plan for."

Mebane, a senior from Los Angeles, has proved to be all but unstoppable. As Tedford says, he routinely draws two and three blockers per play.

Despite the constant double- and triple team attention, Mebane still led the Bears with seven sacks last season. (That total ranked him sixth in the Pac-10 in sacks.) His effort was

even more heroic than merely overcoming extra blockers on play after play—Mebane also suffered a midseason ankle injury, but fought through it.

"I just try to stay focused through the game, whether I'm double-teamed or not," he says. "It's something I have to deal with, but if I can [take on two blockers] and free up other guys to make plays, I don't have any problem with that. As long as we get some three and-outs, I'm happy."

Coaches and other close observers of the Cal program credit Mebane with clogging up the middle and allowing the linebackers free reign to play more aggressively.

"He's a high motor guy," says TBS college football analyst Charles Davis. "I like him a bunch because he stacks things up. It always takes more than one guy to block him and he creates a lot of push for the defense. That's what you want to see up front."

—Erik Spanberg

## 2005 TEAM STATS -----

SCORING	395	254
Points Per Game	32.9	21.2
FIRST DOWNS	251	228
Rushing	135	85
Passing	97	120
Penalty	19	23
RUSHING YARDAGE	2823	1430
Yards gained rushing	3076	1759
Yards lost rushing	253	329
Rushing Attempts	493	428
Average Per Rush	5.8	3.3
Average Per Game	235.2	119.2
TDs Rushing	27	15
PASS-NC YARDAGE	2312	2884
Alt-Cmp-Int	321 167-17	454-254-15
Average Per Pass	7.2	6.4
Average Per Catch	13.8	11.4
Average Per Game	192.7	240.3
TDs Passing	22	14
TOTAL OFFENSE	5135	4314
Total Plays	804	882
Average Per Play	6.4	4.9
Average Per Game	427.9	359.5
KICK RETURNS, #-YDS	30-598	43-848
PAUN RETURNS, #-YDS	28-438	25-320
NT RETURNS, # YDS	15-392	17-58
KICK RET-JRN AVERAGE	19.9	19.7
PAUN RETURN AVERAGE	15.6	12.8
NT RETURN AVERAGE	26.1	3.4
FUMBLES-LOST	23-10	14-6
PENAL-TIES-YARDS	69-620	82-670
Average Per Game	51.7	55.8
PLNITS-YARDS	61-2559	80-3148
Average Per Punt	42.0	39.3
Net punt average	36.7	33.9
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:32	30:28
3RD-DOWN CONV.	52/148	74/201
3rd-Down Pct	35%	37%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	5/9	8/16
4th-Down Pct	58%	50%
SACKS BY-YARDS	32 198	23-119
MISC YARDS	9	43
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	53	31
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	9-16	13-18
PAT-ATTEMPTS	50-52	27-28
ATTENDANCE	402316	283950
Games/Avg Per Game	7/57474	5/56790
Neutral Site Games	0/0	0/0

California	99	96	85	115	0	395
Opponent	61	67	63	56	7	254

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS -----

### OFFENSE

#### PASSING

Joe Ayoob	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11 114.13	254-125-14	49.2	1707	15	155.2		

#### STEVE LEVY

Steve Levy	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
6 150.15	52-32-2	61.5	439	4	73.2		

#### NATE LONGSHORE

Nate Longshore	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
1 184.58	11-8-1	72.7	131	1	131.0		

#### RUSHING

GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
M. Lynch	10	196	1245	6.4	10 124.6
Justin Forsett	12	132	999	7.6	6 83.2
Marcus O'Keith	10	22	243	11.0	3 24.3

#### RECEIVING

GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
D. Jackson	11	38	601	15.8	7 54.6
Robert Jordan	10	34	455	13.4	4 45.5
Lavelle Hawkins	9	18	171	9.5	1 19.0

#### DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Desmond Bishop	12	62	27	89
Donnie McCleskey	12	52	21	73
Harrison Smith	12	50	22	72

#### SACKS

GP	No.	Yds.
Brandon Mebane	12	70
Phillip Mbakogu	11	5.5
Mickey Pimentel	12	3.5

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Daymeion Hughes	5	159	31.8	1
Tim Mixon	3	47	15.7	0
Harrison Smith	2	39	19.5	0



LOS ANGELES

# SOUTHERN CAL

**NFL Draft losses, offseason turmoil leave Trojans with some unanswered questions—for a change**

**U**SC had one of the greatest years of any college football program in history in 2005. It began with a victory over Oklahoma in the BCS Championship Game, continued through a perfect fall and ended with Reggie Bush winning the Heisman Trophy.

But 2006 has not treated the Trojans very well. They blew a 12-point fourth-quarter lead against Texas and lost the Rose Bowl. Then, the man expected to start at quarterback, John David Booty, missed most of spring practice because of a back injury that required surgery. Then came the Bush family housing scandal, followed by quarterback Mark Sanchez getting arrested for sexual assault. At that point, *Street & Smith's* went to press, but it's a good bet that the Trojans found a way to make ignominious headlines through the spring and summer.

Will the summer and fall be any kinder?

Yes, if you assume:

- That Booty gets healthy and emerges as a dependable passer. He does not have to be Matt Leinart for the Trojans to have another terrific season, but he can't make big mistakes in crucial situations.

- That the Trojans find a tailback (or two) to replace Bush and LenDale White.

- That none of the key players miss time due to NCAA violations, legal problems, academic issues or injury.

If all that happens, then, yes, the Trojans could repeat as Pac-10 champs and BCS participants. They have loads of talent, thanks to years of amazing recruiting.

But they return just 11 starters and are so inexperienced at crucial positions that one or two glitches could derail them.

Says one Pac-10 coach: "For the first time in a few years, USC has some real questions. It will be interesting to see what happens there."

Unlike last season, when there were no worthy challengers in the Pac-10, USC has several formidable opponents lying in wait this season—with Cal at the top of the list.

"There's no denying that we lost a lot of outstanding players from the 2005 team, especially on offense," Coach Pete Carroll says. "But this is not an unfamiliar situation for us."

"It has the feel of 2003, when we lost Carson [Palmer] and Troy [Polamalu] and all those running backs. We regrouped and had a real nice season."

## RATING THE RECRUTS

**1** **Stafon Johnson, RB, 6-1, 210**  
Could compete soon for playing time.

**2** **Allen Bradford, LB, 6-0, 230**  
Trojans kept top in-state defender home.

**3** **Taylor Mays, DB/WR, 6-4, 225**  
Washington product can play both ways.

**4** **Antwone Perez, DB, 6-2, 205**  
Jersey prep has bright future.

**5** **Vidal Hazelton, WR, 6-3, 200**  
East Coast product is a long-distance receiver.



PRESEASON RANK

#2

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	□	□	□	□
DEFENSE	□	□	□	□
SPECIAL TEAMS	□	□	□	□
COACHING	□	□	□	□

2005 Record **12-1** PAC-10: **8-0**

(Lost to Texas in the Rose Bowl, 41-38)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2005 RESULT
S.2	@ARKANSAS	70-17
S.16	Nebraska	
S.23	@ARIZONA	42-21
S.30	@WASHINGTON STATE	55-13
O.7	Washington	51-24
O.14	Arizona State	38-28
O.28	@OREGON STATE	
N.4	@STANFORD	51-21
N.11	Oregon	45-13
N.18	California	35-10
<b>N.25</b>	<b>Notre Dame</b>	<b>34-31</b>
O.2	LUCAS	66-19

## \* GAME TO WATCH \*

**Why?** Because it's Notre Dame and USC, and because both teams could be in the top 10—and possibly even the top five—when they collide.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11  
Lettermen returning/lost: 56/24

### Offense

QB	10	John David Booty (6-3, 195, r-Jr.)
FB	40	Brandon Hancock (6-1, 230, r-Sr.)
TB	37	Ryan Powdrell (6-0, 250, r-Sr.)
LT	79	Sam Baker (6-5, 305, r-Jr.)
LG	53	Jeff Byers (6-3, 300, r-So.)
C	67	Ryan Kalil (6-3, 285, Sr.)
RG	66	Chilo Rachal (6-5, 300, r-So.)
RT	78	Kyle Williams (6-6, 295, r-Sr.)
TE	83	Fred Davis (6-4, 245, Jr.)
SE	8	Dwayne Jarrett (6-5, 210, Jr.)
FL	2	Steve Smith (6-0, 195, Sr.)

### Defense

DE	96	Lawrence Jackson (6-5, 265, r-Jr.)
NT	49	Sedrick Ellis (6-1, 285, r-Jr.)
DT	91	Chris Barrett (6-5, 265, r-Jr.)
DE	84	Kyle Moore (6-7, 265, So.)
SLB	42	Dallas Sartz (6-5, 240, r-Sr.)

### MLB

MLB	45	Oscar Lua (6-1, 240, r-Sr.)
WLB	55	Keith Rivers (6-3, 220, Jr.)
CB	15	Kevin Thomas (6-1, 190, So.)
CB	28	Terrell Thomas (6-1, 195, r-Sr.)
FS	36	Josh Pinkard (6-1, 200, Jr.)

### SS

SS	4	Kevin Ellison (6-1, 220, So.)
P	19	Mario Danelo (5-10, 185, r-Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	19	Mario Danelo (5-10, 185, r-Sr.)
P	16	Taylor Odegard (5-9, 170, r-So.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

# TROJANS

Stadium: Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (92,000)

## 3-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Pete Carroll, 6th year (54-10)

Career record: 54-10

Assistant coaches: Nick Holt (def. coord./def. line), Lane Kiffin (off. coord./WRs/recruiting coord.), Todd McNair (RBs/special teams coord.), Ken Norton Jr. (LBs), Pat Ruel (off. line), Steve Sarkisian (asst. head coach/QBs), Rocky Seto (secondary), David Watson (def. line)

Sure, you could call 12-1 and a share of the national title a "nice season."

This fall, it starts with Booty, a junior and former mega-recruit from Shreveport, La. He attempted 14 passes in 2003, then sat out the 2004 campaign with an elbow injury. Booty played in 10 games last season as Leinart's primary backup, but threw the ball only 42 times. If he isn't up to the challenge, then USC will try Sanchez (assuming legal issues don't prevent him from playing).

Because of the season-ending knee injury suffered by Herschel Dennis, the Trojans broke spring practice unsure of who would take over at tailback for Bush and White, who combined for 45 touchdowns and more than 3,000 rushing yards in '05. In fact, USC was so desperate for a healthy, eligible body that it used converted linebacker Ryan Powdrell at running back. Watch for one of the gifted freshmen—perhaps Stafon Johnson—to get plenty of carries.

There are no concerns at receiver, where the Trojans have one of the top tandems in the country in gamebreakers Dwayne Jarrett and Steve Smith. They're so deep at the position that Patrick Turner, who was the top-rated receiver in the nation two years ago, probably won't break the starting lineup.

And even though USC lost three starters along the line, it's hardly in bad shape. Left tackle Sam Baker and center Ryan Kalil are back, as is guard Jeff Byers, who started in '04 but missed last season due to injury.



Dwayne Jarrett, SE



**Keith Rivers, Jr.**

It's much the same situation on the defensive line, where two starters (end Lawrence Jackson and tackle Sedrick Ellis) and a slew of talented reserves return. The deepest unit perhaps on the entire team is linebacker. The returnees include Rey Maualuga, Brian Cushing, Keith Rivers, Thomas Williams, Dallas Sartz (injured most of last season) and Oscar Lua.

The Trojans were second in the nation in turnover margin in 2005, but they also allowed their share of big plays. Many came against a secondary that was both inexperienced and injury-riddled. The only returning starter is free safety Josh Pinkard, and the Trojans will have trouble replacing Darnell Bing as their backfield enforcer. Kevin Ellison is the projected starter at strong safety. Kevin Thomas is likely to man one cornerback spot, with Cary Harris and Terrell Thomas competing for the

starting job on the other side.

The Trojans lose punter Tom Malone but return kicker Mario Danelo, who attempted just 12 field goals last season because USC scored so many touchdowns (87, if you're scoring at home). And whoever returns punts and kicks won't have the same game-changing ability as his predecessor: Bush.



## NEXT BIG THING

### REY MAUALUGA, sophomore linebacker

It was an impressive freshman season for Trojans linebacker Rey Maualuga on the field, but a tough and enduring one outside of football.

Maualuga recorded 37 tackles (4.5 for loss), a sack, an interception and two forced fumbles for USC in 2005. The numbers were good enough for a selection on the Freshman All-America Team.

But the 6-3, 250-pound linebacker ran into trouble last November, when he was arrested for suspicion of misdemeanor battery, then later charged. According to the police report, Maualuga punched a USC student at an off-campus party.

Trojans Coach Pete Carroll did not suspend Maualuga for the incident, but did drop him down to the scout team for a week. He offered no excuses for his player, but it should be noted that around the same time of the incident was when Maualuga found out his father, Talatou, had terminal cancer.

Two days before USC faced Texas in the BCS Championship Game, Talatou passed away—only two months after the diagnosis. Maualuga stayed with the team and played in the Rose Bowl, on both defense and special teams.

This spring, Maualuga agreed to attend 24 hours of anger management classes, 26 meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and perform 100 hours of community service as part of an arraignment diversion program as a resolution of the charges.

With his problems behind him, Maualuga impressed in spring ball and is challenging middle linebacker Oscar Lua (who led the Trojans in tackles last season) for a starting spot.

"We're real excited about Rey's development," Carroll told *The Los Angeles Times*. "He's very comfortable now in the [MLB] spot ... he needs to play a lot for this football team."

—Matt McKenzie

### 2005 TEAM STATS

	GP	W	L	T	Total
SCORING	638	297	22.8		
Points Per Game	49.1	265			
FIRST DOWNS	173	97			
Rushing	179	148			
Passing	24	20			
RUSHING YARDAGE	3380	1697			
Yards gained rushing	3598	2045			
Yards lost rushing	218	348			
Rushing Attempts	525	444			
Average Per Rush	6.4	3.8			
Average Per Game	260.0	150.5			
TDS Rushing	51	17			
PASSING YARDAGE	4157	2995			
All Comp-Int	481	312.10	452	270-22	
Average Per Pass	8.6	6.6			
Average Per Catch	13.3	11.1			
Average Per Game	319.8	230.4			
TDS Passing	32	18			
TOTAL OFFENSE	7537	4692			
Total Plays	1006	896			
Average Per Play	7.5	5.2			
Average Per Game	579.8	360.9			
KICK RETURNS, #-YDS	43-929	65-1370			
PUNT RETURNS, #-YDS	22-190	22-373			
INT RETURNS, #-YDS	22-232	10-204			
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	21.3	20.8			
PUNT RET.JRN AVERAGE	8.6	17.0			
INT RETURN AVERAGE	9.6	20.4			
FUMBLES-LOST	19-7	35-16			
PENALTIES-YARDS	93-827	72-574			
Average Per Game	62.5	44.2			
PUNTS-YARDS	53-1373	61-2515			
Average Per Punt	41.6	41.2			
Net punt average	29.1	36.1			
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME	30:58	29:02			
3RD-DOWN CONV	92/167	65/178			
3rd-Down Pct	55%	37%			
4TH-DOWN CONV.	18/30	12/24			
4th-Down Pct	60%	50%			
SACKS BY YARDS	32-193	18-105			
MISC YARDS	69	14			
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	87	38			
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	11-12	11-16			
PAT-ATTEMPTS	83-86	34-37			
ATTENDANCE	544872	398707			
Games/Avg Per Game	6/90812	6/66451			
Neutral Site Games		1/93986			
GP	153	145	178	162	638
Opponents	67	84	42	104	297

### 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

#### OFFENSE

##### PASSING

Matt Leinart

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	157.74	431-283-8	65.7	3815	28	293.5

J.D. Booty

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
10	143.73	42-27-2	64.3	327	3	32.7

RUSHING

GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Reggie Bush	13	200	1740	8.7	16
LenDale White	13	197	1302	6.6	24
Desmond Reed	6	19	137	7.2	1

RECEIVING

GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Dwayne Jarrett	13	91	1274	14.0	16
Steve Smith	13	60	957	15.9	5
Reggie Bush	13	37	478	12.9	2

DEFENSE

TACKLES

GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Oscar Lua	12	38	66
Frostee Rucker	13	35	56
Collin Ashton	13	30	54

SACKS

GP	No.	Yds.
L. Jackson	13	10.0
Frostee Rucker	13	6.5
Sedrick Ellis	13	4.5

INTERCEPTIONS

No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Darnell Bing	4	119	29.8
Josh Pinkard	2	21	10.5
Ryan Ting	2	3	1.5



TEMPE

# ARIZONA STATE

**Sun Devils will go as far as their super-explosive offense takes them**

**S**o it seems the gunslinger holds the wild card. In the pass-happy Pac-10, no coach enjoys the aerial attack more than Arizona State's Dirk Koetter. He has a creative mind, a dynamic system and appears frustrated when the Sun Devils have to run the ball or play defense. Given a choice, it seems Koetter would prefer to throw 60 times a game and run it twice.

And he has the means to do it, possessing what might be the best quarterback tandem in the country in senior Sam Keller and sophomore Rudy Carpenter. Their presence—plus Koetter's scheme, a veteran offensive line and playmakers at the skill positions—means the Sun Devils will pile on the points. ASU also has history on its side. This is the 10th and 20th anniversary of their only two Pac-10 titles.

There are two questions with the Sun Devils, and neither is new. Do they have the fortitude to play consistently well for 12 games? (They've been prone to midseason slumps under Koetter.) And will the defense be tough enough against the best the Pac-10 has to offer?

If the unit plays well, the Sun Devils will challenge for the conference title. If it doesn't, then ASU could finish in the middle of the pack. And last year, it didn't, allowing a league-worst 468.8 yards per game.

"The best way to improve our defense is to re-establish ourselves as being fundamentally sound," Koetter says. "We were not satisfied with how our defense ranked last season."

He does not have similar concerns about the offense. The Devils are so loaded at quarterback that the nation's No. 1 passer last season, Carpenter, whose efficiency rating was 175.01, is not first on the depth chart. That's because Koetter has a policy that players can't lose their job due to injury. Keller was headed for a sensational year (20 touchdowns in eight games) until he suffered a season-ending thumb injury. Carpenter jumped in and led ASU to a 4-1 record, albeit against lesser competition than Keller faced.

Keller is the No. 1 quarterback heading into training camp. Assuming he plays well, he'll start the opener against Northern Arizona.

"Both [quarterbacks] saw extensive reps in the spring," Koetter says. "I do not foresee us utilizing a two-quarterback system down the road, but I will never close the door to anything."

In front of Keller and Carpenter is an offensive line that was rocked by injuries last season but returns seven of the nine players who started games.

## RATING THE RECRUTS

**1 Jermaine Williams, DE, 6-4, 255.**  
Potential to be special defender.

**2 John Hargis, OL, 6-3, 285.**  
All-state player with potential.

**3 Dane Guthrie, TE, 6-2, 256.**  
Florida transfer could see playing time.

**4 Martin Teveseu, OL, 6-3, 320.**  
Junior-college product should play early.

**5 Alex Fa'agai, DL, 6-3, 286.**  
Junior-college veteran ready to contribute now.



PRESEASON RANK:

#3

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4
DEFENSE	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	4
COACHING	4

2005 Record: 7-5 PAC-10: 4-4

(beat Rutgers in the Insight Bowl, 23-20)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPOSING TEAM	RESULT
A.31	Northern Arizona	7-31
S.9	Nevada	28-38
S.16	@ COLORADO	35-45
S.23 @ CALIFORNIA	Oregon	44-20
S.30	@ USC	42-24
O.14	Stanford	27-24
O.21	@ WASHINGTON	35-45
O.28	@ OREGON STATE	23-20
N.4	Washington State	35-45
N.11	UCLA	27-24
N.18	@ ARIZONA	181, Jr.
N.25	Sam Keller (6-4, 240, Sr.)	23-20

## \* GAME TO WATCH \*

The winner of this early-season showdown becomes USC's prime competition for the conference title

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 5/19

QB	9	Sam Keller (6-4, 240, Sr.)
HB	87	Brent Miller (6-5, 236, Jr.)
TB	24	Keegan Herring (5-10, 190, So.)
LT	62	Brandon Rodd (6-4, 300, Jr.)
LG	66	Stephen Berg (6-5, 309, Sr.)
C	76	Mike Pollak (6-4, 300, Jr.)
RG	78	Zach Krula (6-7, 339, Sr.)
RT	52	Andrew Carnahan (6-8, 300, Sr.)
TE	86	Zach Miller (6-5, 258, Jr.)
WR	17	Terry Richardson (6-1, 187, Sr.)
WR	3	Rudy Burgess (5-10, 181, Jr.)

## DEFENSIVE

DE	66	Loren Howard (6-4, 280, Sr.)
DT	77	Michael Marquardt (6-4, 288, Jr.)
DT	1	Jordan Hill (6-2, 298, Sr.)
DE	50	Kyle Caldwell (6-3, 261, Sr.)
SAM	48	Chad Lindsey (6-0, 212, So.)
MKE	51	Beau Manutai (6-1, 262, Sr.)
WIL	29	Robert James (5-11, 225, Jr.)
CB	8	Keno Walter-White (5-11, 182, Sr.)
CB	21	Chad Green (5-10, 190, Jr.)
S	19	Josh Barrett (6-2, 220, Jr.)
S	5	Zach Calanais (6-2, 219, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	20	Jesse Ainsworth (6-3, 220, Sr.)
P	20	Jesse Ainsworth (6-3, 220, Sr.)

# SUN DEVILS

Stadium: Sun Devil Stadium (71,706)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	7
2004	9
2003	5
2002	8
2001	4

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ★ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Dirk Koetter, 6th year (33-28)

Career record: 59-38

Assistant coaches: Tom Osborne (ass't. head coach/TEs/specia, teams), Bill Miller (def. coord./LBs), Roy Witke (off. coord./off. line), Dan Fidler (Safeties), Darryl Jackson (WRs), Brent Myers (running game coord./on line), Al Simmons (CBs), Grady Stretz (def. line), John Wrenn (RBs)

The best is right tackle Andrew Carnahan, an honorable mention all-league pick last season.

Behind Keller and Carpenter is sophomore tailback Keegan Herring, who set a school rookie record with 870 yards last year. He's small (190 pounds), quick and knows how to hide behind offensive linemen. The power runner is 216-pound sophomore Shaun DeWitt.

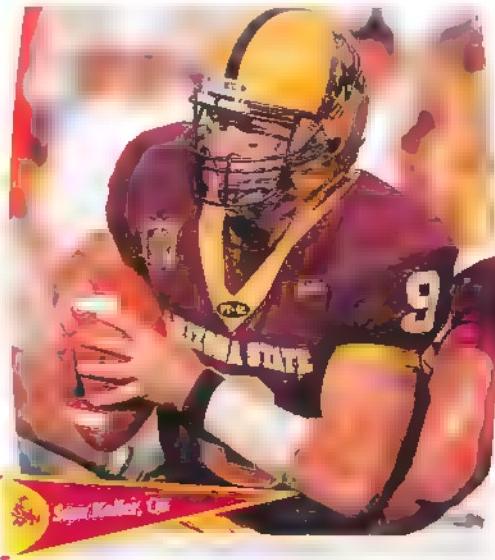
To the left and right of Keller and Carpenter is a gifted set of pass catchers. Tight end Zach Miller is one of the best in the country.

Do-everything junior Rudy Burgess is a threat out wide or lined up in the backfield (he also plays cornerback). And sophomore receiver Mike Jones was the story of spring practice.

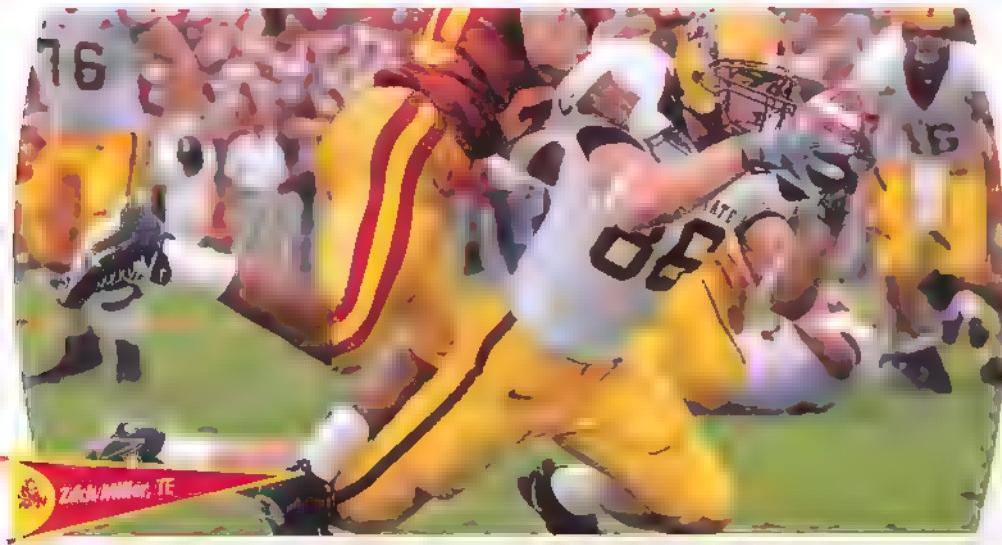
There's only one question: the status of Terry Richardson, the top returning receiver and the man ASU is counting on to replace Derek Hagan. Richardson was suspended from spring practice for violating team rules. He has work to do—both in the classroom and out—to be allowed back for training camp.

If he doesn't return, it will be a major blow to ASU's title chances.

Defensively, the Sun Devils must replace their two best players—linebackers Dale Robinson, the league's co-Defensive Player of the Year, and Jamar Williams, a three-year starter. Senior Beau Manutai is in line to take over for Robinson in the middle of the defense, while returning starter



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Zach Miller, TE  
Robert James is expected to hold down the weakside. The front-runner for the strongside is sophomore Chad Lindsey, but ASU has brought in a slew of newcomers to help fill the positions. At least one of them—the best bet is juco transfer Garrett Judah—might end up in the lineup.

The defensive line is in solid shape, assuming it can stay healthy. Three transfers—Tranell Morant (Florida), Loren Howard



## NEXT BIG THING

### JOSH BARRETT, junior safety

What a difference a healthy offseason makes. Josh Barrett suffered season-ending shoulder injuries two straight years, enduring surgery and extensive rehab programs that killed his offseason conditioning.

Not this year. Barrett, a junior safety, enters the 2006 campaign fresh off one of the best spring performances of anyone on the Arizona State roster. The difference is startling—not only to Barrett, but to his coaches as well.

"Coming off two consecutive surgeries, it's hard for your body," Barrett says. "You don't have the edge of playing spring ball and really learning the defense and knowing your responsibilities inside and out. But I learned a lot from the [injuries]. Things happen for a reason."

Sun Devils Coach Dirk Koetter says Barrett, like most players, struggled with doubts during the frequent convalescences and monotonous rehabilitation programs.

With a strong finish to the 2005 season, coupled with the superlative spring, Barrett became a new player, one Koetter anticipates will turn in big performances in Tempe this fall.

"His confidence started rising and he just blew up," Koetter says. "All that potential and all that talent started showing up all over the place. We all did triple takes watching him."

(Northwestern) and Michael Marquardt (BYU)—join returnees Kyle Caldwell and Jordan Hill to give the Sun Devils a solid core.

The do-it-all Burgess could end up starting at cornerback, which is a potentially troublesome position. The same could be said of safety if inconsistent junior Josh Barrett doesn't play to his potential. The Devils are in good shape at strong safety with senior Zach Catanese.

The special teams have the potential to be special if Richardson, a first-rate return man, is allowed back from suspension. Senior kicker Jesse Ainsworth didn't get much work last season because the Devils scored so many touchdowns, but he was nine-for-nine inside 40 yards.

The gawking began with dash drills. Barrett demonstrated blazing speed and instantly asserted himself as one of the fastest players on the team. During spring practice, Koetter and his assistants noticed one player kept coming up again and again during film-study sessions at the end of each day.

"Josh did two or three things a practice that made us all say wow," Koetter says. "[The coaches] were all saying, 'Did you see that burst? Did you see that hit?'"

Once considered a possible starter, Barrett was a lock by the end of spring. He will be paired with standout Zach Catanese, who finished fourth in the Pac-10 last season with 107 tackles. Catanese supplanted Barrett for a starting job in 2005; now they will both be starters.

With good size (6-2, 220 pounds) and stellar speed, Barrett is ideal for Arizona State's defensive strategy, says Charles Davis, a TBS college football analyst.

"They like those guys to be involved covering the run and the pass in a big way," Davis says. "With a defense like that, if you have a guy like Barrett—a bigger guy, who can deliver a blow but also has that speed—then life is good."

—Erik Spanberg

## 2005 TEAM STATS

	2005	2004
SCORING	442	359
Points Per Game	36.8	29.9
FIRST DOWNS	313	287
Rushing	93	111
Passing	201	143
Penalty	19	33
RUSHING YARDAGE	1748	2157
Yards gained rushing	2080	2487
Yards lost rushing	332	330
Rushing Attempts	447	493
Average Per Rush	3.9	4.4
Average Per Game	145.7	179.8
TDs Rushing	18	20
PASSING YARDAGE	4481	3468
All-Comp-Int	493-312-11	413-246-12
Average Per Pass	9.1	8.4
Average Per Catch	14.4	14.1
Average Per Game	373.4	289.0
TDs Passing	38	21
TOTAL OFFENSE	6229	5625
Total Plays	940	906
Average Per Play	6.6	6.2
Average Per Game	519.1	458.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	36-885	29-605
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	26-389	22-287
INT RETURNS: # YDS	12-124	11-100
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	24.6	20.9
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	15.0	13.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	10.3	9.1
FLUMBLIES LOST	19-9	27-15
PENALTIES-YARDS	114-982	80-666
Average Per Game	81.8	55.5
PUNTS-YARDS	58-2146	50-2117
Average Per Punt	37.0	42.3
Net punt average	30.3	32.6
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:50	30:10
3RD-DOWN CONV.	80/172	68/170
3rd-Down Pct	47%	40%
4TH-DOWN CONV	9/17	9/21
4th-Down Pct	53%	43%
SACKS BY-YARDS	22-147	36-222
MISC YARDS	29	3
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	59	44
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	9-11	16-23
PAT-ATTEMPTS	53-53	43-43
ATTENDANCE	428096	189122
Games/Avg Per Game	7/61157	4/47280
Neutral Site Games		1/43536

## SCORING

	2005	2004
Arizona State	106	120
Opponents	72	97

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

### OFFENSE

#### PASSING

Sam Keller

GP	Effic	Alt-Cmp-Int	Pct	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
8	145.78	264-155-9	58.7	2165	20	270.6

Rudy Carpenter

GP	Effic	Alt-Cmp-Int	Pct	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
9	175.01	228-156-2	68.4	2273	17	252.6

#### RUSHING

	GP	All	Net	Avg	TD	Avg/G
K. Herring	12	158	870	5.5	6	72.5
Rudy Burgess	12	145	644	4.4	6	53.7
Preston Jones	7	39	187	4.8	2	26.7

#### RECEIVING

	GP	All	Net	Avg	TD	Avg/G
Derek Hagan	12	77	1210	15.7	8	100.8
Rudy Burgess	12	59	655	11.1	4	54.6
Zach Miller	10	38	476	12.5	4	47.6

#### DEFENSE

	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Dale Robinson	12	74	41	115
Zach Catanese	12	62	45	107
Jamar Williams	11	48	22	70

#### SACKS

	GP	No.	Yds.
DeWayne Hollyfield	10	5.5	38
Dale Robinson	12	4.0	25
Jamar Williams	11	2.0	15

#### INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jamar Williams	3	22	7.3	0
Josh Golden	2	63	31.5	1
Derrick Ware	1	20	20.0	0



EUGENE

## OREGON



## Ultra-athletic running back Stewart should give Ducks fans plenty to quack about this season

**S**ophomore tailback Jonathan Stewart is more than the face of the Oregon Ducks this season. He's more than the biceps, quadriceps and abdominals, too. The 5-foot-11 Stewart—who reportedly bench presses 410 pounds and has run the 40-yard dash in 4.34 seconds—is Oregon football this season. His talent and potential mirror the team's talent and potential.

If all goes right, the Ducks could challenge for the conference title. Or they could stumble out of the gate—the early season schedule is difficult—and finish in the middle of the pack. Whatever happens, it should be fun to watch.

The Ducks are nothing if not entertaining under Coach Mike Bellotti. Last season, Oregon's first using the spread offense, it produced 34.5 points a game, averaged more than 300 yards through the air and went to the wire with

### RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** Jeremy Gibbs, DL, 6-2, 240  
One of nine junior-college recruits.

**2** Matthew Harper, DB, 6-0, 177  
California product has credentials.

**3** Micah Howeth, DE, 6-3, 245  
Solid junior-college prospect.

**4** Ryan Mattice, WR, 6-3, 200  
Ex-prep QB is versatile athlete.

**5** Nathan Costa, QB, 6-1, 196  
Top prep prospect in recruiting class.



## PRESEASON RANK:

#4

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★

2005 Record: 10-2 | PAC-10: 7-1

(Lost to Oklahoma in the Holiday Bowl, 17-14)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Stanford	44-20
S.9	@FRESNO STATE	37-34
S.16	Oklahoma	
S.30	@ARIZONA STATE	31-17
O.7	@CALIFORNIA	27-20 (OT)
O.14	UCLA	
O.21	@WASHINGTON STATE	34-31
O.28	Portland State	
N.4	Washington	45-21
N.11	@USC	13-45
N.18	Arizona	28-21
N.25	@OREGON STATE	56-14

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

A rematch of last year's Holiday Bowl gives the Ducks a chance to exact revenge and get a big win.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 51/16

## OFFENSE

QB 10	Dennis Dixon (6-4, 196, Jr.)
TB 28	Jonathan Stewart (5-11, 234, So.)
HB 82	Dan Kause (6-4, 252, Sr.)
LT 60	Max Unger (6-5, 296, So.)
LG 61	Josh Tschirgi (6-4, 311, Jr.)
C 55	Enoka Lucas (6-4, 299, Sr.)
RG 77	Palauni Ma Sun (6-6, 335, Sr.)
RT 75	Geoff Schwartz (6-7, 359, Jr.)
TE 44	Dante Rosano (6-4, 250, Sr.)
WR 3	Cameron Colvin (6-2, 205, Jr.)
WR 18	James Finley (6-2, 204, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

LE 45	Matt Toeaina (6-3, 301, Sr.)
LT 97	Cole Luehan (6-4, 295, So.)
RT 90	David Faafeteete (6-2, 307, Jr.)
RE 95	Darius Sanders (6-5, 269, Sr.)
LB 33	Blair Phillips (6-2, 246, Sr.)
LB 42	Brent Haberly (6-0, 228, Sr.)
ROV 15	Patrick Chung (5-11, 205, So.)
LCB 8	Jackie Bates (5-10, 180, Jr.)
RCB 31	Jameel Dowling (6-2, 184, Jr.)
FS 28	J.D. Nelson (5-11, 219, Sr.)
SS 48	Jon Pope (6-1, 223, Sr.)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

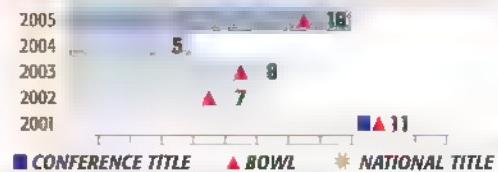
PK 36 Paul Martinez (6-2, 210, Sr.)

P 14 Matt Dragich (6-1, 213, Sr.)

## DUCKS

Stadium: Autzen Stadium (54,000)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Mike Bellotti, 12th year (90-42)

Career record: 111-67-2

Assistant coaches: Neal Zoumboukos (asst. head coach/TEs), Nick Alioti (def. coord.), Gary Campbell (RBs), Robin Pflugrad (WRs), Steve Greatwood (off. line), John Neal (secondary), Don Pelum (LBs), Michael Gray (def. line), Gary Crowley (off. coord.)

Fresno State, Arizona, Cal, Washington State and Oklahoma. To the delight of the faithful in Eugene, the Ducks won 10 games, finished second in the conference and nearly qualified for the Bowl Championship Series.

But as those same fans will point out, the Ducks haven't been a model of consistency in recent years. In fact, they have not won eight games in back-to-back years since Offensive Coordinator Jeff Tedford departed for Cal following the 2001 season. They have a golden chance this fall—and not only because the NCAA added a 12th game

The Ducks have six starters back on defense, seven on offense and are in their second year of the spread offense. But their success (or failure) starts with Stewart, who was the third-ranked prep tailback in the country in 2004. All he did last fall was touch the ball 72 times and score nine touchdowns. (He also led the nation in kickoff returns with a 33.7 yard average.) After a



Street &amp; Smith's All-American

productive offseason, Stewart is ready to replace Terrence Whitehead as the Ducks' primary tailback. He has the potential to challenge Cal's Marshawn Lynch as the league's best given that Oregon returns all five starters along its offensive line, including second-team all-league center Enoka Lucas.

If the line does its job and Stewart does his, things should be much easier for the new quarterback. Junior Dennis Dixon is the favorite to replace Kellen Clemens, but he'll get plenty of competition from junior Brady Leaf, the brother of former San Diego Chargers quarterback Ryan Leaf. Dixon played well last season after Clemens went down with an ankle injury, and he's more mobile than Leaf, which fits better into the Ducks' spread attack.

In addition to replacing Clemens and Whitehead, Oregon must offset the loss of receiver Demetrius Williams, who averaged 17.9 yards per catch last season and scored 10 touchdowns. Although he lacked elite speed, Williams was able to stretch defenses consistently. That chore falls to either James Finley or Cameron Colvin, who were solid complementary receivers in '05 but must assume greater responsibility this fall.

Oregon faces similar challenges on

defense, with a solid core returning but several big departures to overcome. The biggest, of course, is that of 338-pound tackle Haloti Ngata, a first-round NFL pick who was arguably the nation's best interior defensive lineman. Oregon also lost end Devan Long, who had 14 tackles for loss; outside linebacker Anthony Trucks, who led the conference in sacks; fumbles forced and tackles for loss; and starting cornerbacks Aaron Gipson and Justin Phinisee. If you're keeping score at home, that's five playmakers whose absence will weigh heavily.

A bevy of underclassmen will attempt to fortify the line. David Faaeteete, a 307-pound junior, and sophomore Cole Linehan are the best bets to emerge as consistent run-stoppers. Senior Matt Toesana, who started at tackle last season, is expected to move to end to replace Long.

The linebacking unit is in decent shape, thanks to the return of starters Brent Haberly and Blair Phillips, and Patrick Chung is back to man the rover position. But there is no obvious candidate to replace Trucks, who was part-outside linebacker, part-strong safety, and the situation at cornerback is all guesswork. Jackie Bates, Walter Thurmond and Jameel Dowling, a junior-college transfer, will contend for playing time.

At least Bellotti doesn't have to fret about free safety. The position is in good hands with senior J.D. Nelson, a second-team all-league pick and the son of former Stanford star Darrin Nelson.

Oregon has one of the top placekickers in the league in senior Paul Martinez, who made 19 of 24 field goals last season. But the success of the special teams depends in part on whether the Ducks use Stewart as a kickoff returner. He's a threat to score each time he touches the ball. But they may decide the risk is too great.

## 2006 NEXT BIG THING

### J.D. NELSON, senior free safety

Coach Mike Bellotti has a few words for his defense as the Ducks prepare for the 2006 season. Oregon enters the year with questions on the offensive side of the ball—most notably at quarterback—and he needs his defense to carry the team.

That would be especially true early in the year when Dennis Dixon and Brady Leaf will battle for the No. 1 signal-caller position. It's likely that the offense could take a few games to hit on all cylinders.

The defense, which should be led by senior free safety J.D. Nelson, needs to be up and running at full speed when the Ducks start the season and the Pac-10 race Sept. 2 against Stanford in Eugene.

Nelson moves like a missile at 5-11 and 219 pounds and is a big-time finisher in the secondary. He's the kind of player who causes receivers to have some uneasy nights prior to the game because he is such a forceful hitter. He appears to be something of a target for opposing quarterbacks and receivers because

he is somewhat on the short side—but the force of his tackling ability quickly changes that strategy.

Nelson finished the 2005 season with 64 tackles, five passes defensed, one forced fumble and one interception. Those are good, but not great, numbers and Nelson was slowed in the early season by a knee problem.

Nelson missed spring football again this year, but it is clear that he has stepped up his game and will be one of the foundation players for Bellotti. He is a better than even-money selection to finish as a first-team performer on the All-Pac-10 Team.

"I see our secondary as being our biggest area of strength," Oregon Defensive Coordinator Nick Aliotti says. "They're going to have to do the job if we are going to be successful this season."

Nelson may be the best of that group—and could have a slew of postseason honors by the end of the year.

—Steve Silverman

## 2005 TEAM STATS -----

SCORING	4.4	278
Points Per Game	34.5	23.2
FIRST DOWNS	270	230
Rushing	80	86
Passing	164	120
Penalty	26	24
RUSHING YARDAGE	1612	1607
Yards gained rushing	1875	1957
Yards lost rushing	263	350
Rushing Attempts	427	407
Average Per Rush	3.8	3.9
Average Per Game	134.3	133.9
TDS Rushing	16	12
PASSING YARDAGE	3654	2685
Att-Cmp-Int	482-303-10	443-252-23
Average Per Pass	7.6	6.1
Average Per Catch	12.1	10.7
Average Per Game	304.5	233.8
TDS Passing	28	22
TOTAL OFFENSE	5266	4292
Total Plays	909	850
Average Per Play	5.8	5.0
Average Per Game	438.8	357.7
KICK RETURNS #-YDS	42-1035	61-1366
PLNT RETURNS #-YDS	32-360	21-223
INT RETURNS # YDS	23-383	10-105
KICK RET JRN AVERAGE	24.6	22.4
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.2	10.6
INT RET JRN AVERAGE	16.7	10.5
FUMBLES-LOST	19-9	19-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	96-868	110-973
Average Per Game	72.3	81.1
PUNTS-YARDS	50-1832	70-2662
Average Per Punt	36.6	38.0
Net punt average	32.2	32.9
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:26	30:34
3RD-DOWN CONV.	80,191	66,183
3rd-Down Pct	42%	36%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	10/19	8/21
4th-Down Pct	53%	38%
SACKS BY-YARDS	31-212	20-105
MISC YARDS	37	0
TOLCHDOWNS SCORED	49	35
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	23-33	11-17
PAT-ATTEMPTS	39-43	35-35
ATTENDANCE	550602	186107
Games, Avg Per Game	6/58434	5/37221
Neutral Site Games		1/65416

	Home	Away
Oregon	109	99
Opponents	68	65

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS -----

### OFFENSE

#### PASSING

Kellen Clemens

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
8	152	87	289	185-4	64.0	2406

Dennis Dixon

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	142	37	104	69-3	65.3	777

Brady Leaf

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	111	13	82	48-3	58.5	467

#### RUSHING

T Whitehead

GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
11	156	679	4.4	4	61.7

Kellen Clemens

GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
8	69	228	3.3	0	28.5

J. Stewart

GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
10	53	184	3.5	6	18.8

#### RECEIVING

D. Williams

GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
12	59	1059	17.9	10	88.2

James Finley

GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
12	57	571	10.0	2	47.5

T Whitehead

GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
11	52	490	9.4	4	44.5

#### DEFENSE

##### TACKLES

Anthony Trucks

GP	Att.	No.	Ast.	Total
12	62	37	99	

Patrick Chung

GP	Att.	No.	Ast.	Total
12	58	33	91	

Justin Phinisee

GP	Att.	No.	Ast.	Total
12	53	13	66	

##### SACKS

Anthony Trucks

GP	No.	Vds.
12	11.0	60

Devan Long

GP	No.	Vds.
10	5.0	31

Haloti Ngata

GP	No.	Vds.
12	3.0	20

##### INTERCEPTIONS

Aaron Gipson

No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
7	117	16.7	1

Justin Phinisee

No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
4	206	51.5	0

Rodney Woods

No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
3	2	0.7	0

# OREGON STATE



## Can talented Beavers stay disciplined and realize their considerable potential?

**L**e's forget the name of the school for a minute and focus solely on the returning talent: a senior quarterback, the No. 9 rusher in the country, five starters on the offensive line, one of the league's best tight ends, an elite placekicker and every starter in the secondary.

That combination would usually result in the team being picked to win the conference title, or at least to finish in the top three.

But, alas, we are talking about Oregon State, not USC or Cal, and the assumption is that OSU's talent doesn't stack up with the league's best. But there's another reason to be skeptical of the Beavers, who are coming off a 5-6 season in which they lost four of their last five games. During Coach Mike Riley's tenure, they have had a tendency to self-destruct with turnovers, penalties and a general lack of discipline both on and off the field. (OSU is king of the 15-yard personal foul.)

So are we to judge the Beavers by what they have back (16 starters), or by their spotty execution of recent years? Let's split the difference and pick them fifth. For all their experience, it's hard to see the Beavers winning the conference. At the same time, they're talented enough to overcome the inevitable mistakes. (One caveat: If for some reason OSU plays with the discipline it has lacked of late, the Beavers just might challenge for the title.)

No one typifies the two faces of OSU better than quarterback Matt Moore, the UCLA transfer. He spent most of last fall getting comfortable in Riley's system, throwing 11 touchdowns and 19 interceptions. If he reverses those numbers, the Beavers could do some damage.

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- | Rank | Name         | Position | Height | Weight | Recruiting Class                           |
|------|--------------|----------|--------|--------|--|
| 1    | Gerard Lee   | DL       | 6-3    | 276    | Junior-college product should help.        |
| 2    | Kyle Loomis  | P        | 6-3    | 185    | Top prep punter adds special-teams weapon. |
| 3    | Coye Frances | DB       | 6-1    | 190    | Talented juco might play early.            |
| 4    | Dorian Smith | DE       | 6-3    | 250    | Californian bolsters DL recruits.          |



PRESEASON RANK:

#5

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★

2005 Record: 5-6 PAC-10: 3-5

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A.31	Eastern Washington	
S.7	@BOISE STATE	30-27
S.23	Idaho	
S.30	California	23-20
O.7	Washington State	44-33
O.14	@WASHINGTON	18-10
<b>O.31: ARIZONA</b>		<b>27-20</b>
O.28	USC	
N.4	Arizona State	24-42
N.11	@UCLA	28-51
N.18	@STANFORD	17-20
N.25	Oregon	14-56
D.2	@HAWAII	

## WHAT TO WATCH

*Might be a must-win game before the Beavers embark on a brutal stretch run that starts with USC and Arizona State.*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 5/13

## OFFENSE

QB	8	Matt Moore (6-4, 193, Sr.)
TB	26	Yvenson Bernard (5-9, 202, Jr.)
LT	61	Adam Koets (6-6, 299, Sr.)
LG	62	Jeremy Perry (6-2, 313, So.)
C	75	Kyle DeVan (6-2, 296, Jr.)
RG	67	Roy Schuening (6-4, 315, Jr.)
RT	69	Josh Linehan (6-5, 315, Sr.)
TE	89	Joe Newton (6-7, 252, Sr.)
SE	19	Sammie Stroughter (6-0, 183, Jr.)
SL	17	A. Wheat-Brown (6-1, 223, Jr.)
FL	80	Zach Tarver (6-5, 216, So.)

## DEFENSE

LE	27	Joe Lemma (6-3, 257, Sr.)
LT	97	Ben Siegert (6-4, 294, Sr.)
RT	98	Curtis Coker (6-1, 307, Jr.)
RE	49	Jeff Van Orsow (6-4, 267, Jr.)
SLB	45	Derrick Doggett (6-3, 208, Jr.)
MLB	42	Andy Darkins (6-2, 233, Jr.)
WLB	12	Isaiah Cook (6-2, 216, So.)
LCB	6	Keenan Lewis (6-1, 91, So.)
RCB	36	Brandon Hughes (5-11, 178, So.)
FS	9	Al Afalava (5-11, 198, So.)
SS	24	Sabby Piscitelli (6-3, 226, Sr.)

PK: Alexi Serna (6-2, 192, So.)

P: 32 Jon Strowbridge (6-2, 156, Jr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

# BEAVERS

Stadium: Reser Stadium (43,300)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



## ■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ■ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Mike Riley, 6th year (28-30)

Career record: 28-30

Assistant coaches: Danny Langsdorf (off. coord./QBs), Mark Bunker (def coord./secondary), Bruce Read (special teams), Greg Newhouse (LBs), Jim Gilstrap (RBs), Lee Hull (WRs), Joe Seumalo (def line), Nigel Burton (CBs), Mike Cavanaugh (asst. head coach/off line)

"For a first-year quarterback, which is what he was for us, I thought he did a really good job," Riley says. "Before he got hurt late in the year, he was on track to break the production record. Unfortunately, he was also on track to break the interception record, and we've got to get rid of that."

Moore should have plenty of time to throw. All five starters return to the offensive line, including two juniors (center Kyle DeVan and guard Roy Schuening) and a sophomore (guard Jeremy Perry) who were named honorable-mention all-league.

The man expected to run through the holes they create is tailback Yvenson Bernard, a junior from Boca Raton, Fla., who averaged 120.1 rushing yards per game last season, ninth best in the country.

The key loss on offense is receiver Mike Hass, a former walk-on who had 90 catches and won the 2005 Biletnikoff Award. At the same time, OSU welcomes back 6-7 tight end Joe Newton, who suffered a season-ending knee injury hours before the first practice of training camp last year.

Newton's absence devastated the program; he would have been one of the top tight ends in the conference.

"Besides just being a fabulous player, he is a great team guy," Riley says. "He will most certainly add some stability to our offense."

The only stability on the other side of the ball is in the secondary. Given the pass-happy nature of the Pac-10, that's not a bad place to cluster your returning players. The leader of the group is strong safety Sabby Piscitelli. He'll be working with a pair of sophomore cornerbacks, Brandon Hughes and Keenan Lewis, who started as freshmen and got roughed up a bit. (The Beavers allowed 299 passing yards per game last fall.)

For Defensive Coordinator Mark Bunker, who quietly does his job as well as anyone in the conference, the area of concern is up the middle. The Beavers lost their starting tackles (Alvin Smith and Sir Henry Anderson) and two first-team all-conference linebackers (Keith Ellison and Trent Bray).

That doesn't mean the front seven is completely new. Ends Joe Lemma and Jeff Van Orsow return, as does middle linebacker Andy Darkins. But it's unlikely the Beavers will lead the conference in rushing defense again.

In close games, OSU will have an advantage over every team in the conference: kicker Alexi Serna is the best there is. All he did last season was connect on 23 of 28 field goals, with a long of 47.

## UCLA

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



**'Lucky' Bruins of '05 lost too much firepower on offense to be taken seriously as contender for 2006**

Sure, sixth place might seem low for the Bruins. After all, they won 10 games last season, finished 16th in the *Associated Press* poll and averaged 39.1 points per game. They might be a Top 25 team when the first poll is released in August, and a soft early schedule could have them undefeated in mid-October.

But ask yourself this: Were the Bruins really one of the best 20 or so teams in the country last season? It says here that they were not. In fact, they weren't even close. Good teams don't need fourth-quarter rallies to beat bad teams week after week, as the Bruins did. Good teams don't lose 52-14 to slow Arizona, as the Bruins did. Good teams don't allow 233 rushing yards per game. Or surrender 40 or more points four times.

The Bruins weren't good, but they had two very good players and they were lucky. They probably won't get that lucky again, and they definitely won't have the services of the playmakers, tailback Maurice Drew and quarterback Drew Olson, who combined for 55 touchdowns—all of which seemed to come in the fourth quarter.

So, really, UCLA was a 10-2 team that was ridiculously close to being a 6-5 team that lost its best players and its offensive coordinator, Tom Cable, who left for the NFL. Plus, the Bruins have to find a quarterback, learn a new defense and navigate a brutal late-season schedule. In other words, sixth place looks about right.

Let's start at quarterback. The front-runner is sophomore Ben Olson, who was the top-rated prep passer in the country back in the 1990s. OK, that's an exaggeration—but not much of one. Olson was, in fact, the top quarterback recruit in the fall of '01, signed with BYU, went on a mission, came back, transferred to UCLA and threw just four passes last season.

What does it mean? Only that—assuming Olson beats out sophomore Pat Cowan for the starting job—the Bruins will be relying on a quarterback who essentially hasn't played in five years.

"Ben has worked extremely hard to get ready for this opportunity," Bruins Coach Karl Dorrell says. "Even though his game time is limited, it was vital that he get back into action last season and begin the process of believing in himself."

Olson will be working behind an offensive line that returns one of the top guards in the conference, junior Shannon Tevaga, and a veteran tackle, Brian Abraham. But the other side—the weak-side—is dominated by freshmen and sophomores. And senior J.J. Hair, the presumptive starter at tight end, doesn't come close to possessing the talent of his predecessor, Marcedes Lewis, who led the Bruins with 58 catches last season.



## BRUINS

Stadium: Rose Bowl (91,500)

## PRESEASON RANK

#6

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	4	5	6
DEFENSE	5	6	7
SPECIAL TEAMS	4	5	6
COACHING	5	6	7

2005 Record:

10-2      6-2

(beat Northwestern in the Sun Bowl, 50-38)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE / OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
8/29 @Utah	
9/5 Rice	63-21
9/12 @WASHINGTON	21-17
9/19 Stanford	30-27 (OT)
9/26 Arizona	14-52
<b>10/13 @OREGON</b>	
10/21 @NOTRE DAME	
10/28 Washington State	44-41 (OT)
11/4 @CALIFORNIA	47-40
11/11 Oregon State	31-28
11/18 @ARIZONA STATE	45-35
12/2 USC	19-66

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Soft early schedule means Bruins could be 5-0 heading into Eugene for a game that will show whether they're legit.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/15

## OFFENSE

QB	7	Ben Olson (6-5, 227, So.)
FB	32	Michael Pitre (5-11, 240, Jr.)
TB	28	Chris Markey (5-11, 203, Jr.)
WG	60	Chris Joseph (6-4, 290, Jr.)
WT	75	Nick Ektabani (6-5, 280, So.)
C	54	Robert Choi (6-3, 285, Sr.)
ST	68	Brian Abraham (6-6, 300, Jr.)
SG	71	Shannon Tevaga (6-3, 310, Jr.)
TE	81	J.J. Hair (6-5, 248, Sr.)
SE	9	Marcus Everett (6-1, 200, Jr.)
FL	26	Joe Cowan (6-4, 220, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

LE	17	Justin Hickman (6-1, 261, Sr.)
DT	75	Kevin Brown (6-2, 297, Jr.)
DT	93	Brigham Harwell (6-1, 274, Jr.)
RE	48	William Snead (6-4, 253, Jr.)
SLB	12	John Hale (6-4, 225, So.)
MLB	53	Christian Taylor (6-0, 220, Jr.)
WLB	2	Eric McNeal (6-2, 209, Sr.)
LCB	23	Trey Brown (5-10, 189, Jr.)
RCB	3	Rodney Van (6-1, 178, Jr.)
FS	11	Dennis Keyes (6-1, 192, Jr.)
SS	14	Chris Horton (6-1, 200, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	7	Justin Medlock (6-0, 186, Sr.)
P	17	Aaron Perez (6-2, 220, So.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

The Bruins will rely on a handful of players to replace Drew's 20 touchdowns and 1,863 all-purpose yards. Junior Chris Markey, a gifted kick returner, is expected to start at tailback—he averaged 46.8 rushing yards per game in '05—but will face competition from sophomore Kahlil Bell.

The one offensive unit not in flux is receiver, where last season's starters, Joe Cowan and Marcus Everett, return. In addition, the Bruins welcome back playmaker Junior Taylor, who suffered a season-ending knee injury early last season.

"We may have lost some statistical leaders," Dorrell says, "but we have players in place to continue the high level of productivity."

Those players will be working with a new offensive coordinator. To replace Cable, who masterminded the high-octane offense, Dorrell promoted Jim Svoboda, who coached quarterbacks the past two seasons.

There's also a new boss on defense. Dorrell fired Larry Kerr and hired DeWayne Walker from the Washington Redskins, where he served as the secondary coach. Walker must rebuild a defense that was hit hard by injuries and laughably bad. The Bruins were last in the conference in scoring defense and rushing defense and ninth in total defense. Oh, and they allowed 34 points per game.

Yes, seven starters are back, but given how they played last fall, is that really a good thing? We'll see. To be sure, the return of tackle Kevin Brown will help tremendously. (He missed all of the 2005 season with an ankle injury.) Tackle Brigham Harwell and end Justin Hickman are also back. At the very least, UCLA will have one of the most experienced lines in the league.

That's not the case at linebacker, where the Bruins must replace three starters, including all-conference pick Spencer Havner. In the group competing for playing time, there's one senior, Eric McNeal, and a herd of underclassmen.

The personnel losses in the secondary are almost as great—starting with safety Jarrad Page, a four-year starter, and moving to corner, where UCLA will no longer have the services of Marcus Cassel. Watch for junior Rodney Van to replace Cassel; on the other side, the Bruins will depend on junior Trey Brown, who started every game last season.

The special teams got a boost in April, when placekicker Justin Medlock was reinstated to the team after a DUI charge.

**Head coach: Karl Dorrell, 4th year (22-15)**

**Career record: 22-15**

**Assistant coaches:** Dino Babers (RBs/recruiting coord.), Chuck Bullough (LBs), Jim Colletto (asst. head coach/off. line), Gary DeLoach (secondary/CBs), Todd Howard (def. line), D.J. McCarthy (WRs), Jim Svoboda (off. coord/QBs), DeWayne Walker (def. coord.), John Wristen (TEs/special teams)

## RATING THE RECRUTS

**1** Michael Kia, OL, 6-5, 295  
Top prospect in strong OL group.

**2** Terrence Austin, WR, 5-11, 175

Latest athlete from Long Beach Poly pipeline

**3** Chane Moline, RB, 6-1, 240

Fullback is solid prospect from top prep program.

**4** Dylan Rush, DE, 6-3, 240

Hawai'i recruit could also play tight end.

**5** Christian Ramirez, WR, 6-2, 195

Sleeper prospect could play several positions.



STANFORD, CALIF

TUCSON

# STANFORD CARDINAL

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, 4-4 PAC-10

PRESEASON RANK

#7

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	4
2003	4
2002	2
2001	▲ 9

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Walt Harris, 2nd year (5-6)

Career record: 68-74

Stadium: Stanford Stadium

Capacity: 50,000

Official athletic Web site:

www.gostanford.com

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@OREGON	20-44
S.9	@SAN JOSE STATE	
S.16	Navy	41-38
S.23	Washington State	24-21
S.30	@UCLA	27-30 (OT)
O.7	@NOTRE DAME	31-38
O.14	Arizona	20-16
O.21	@ARIZONA STATE	45-35
N.4	USC	21-51
N.11	@WASHINGTON	
N.18	Oregon State	20-17
D.2	@CALIFORNIA	3-27

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

To qualify for a bowl game, the Cardinal must win home games against mediocre opponents.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 6  
Lettermen returning/lost: 46/19

## OFFENSE

QB	5	Trent Edwards (6-4, 220, Sr.)
FB	39	Nick Frank (6-2, 260, Sr.)
H	26	Anthony Kimble (6-1, 195, Jr.)
LT	67	Allen Smith (6-4, 300, Jr.)
LG	59	Josiah Vinson (6-4, 315, Sr.)
C	62	Tim Matran (6-5, 295, Sr.)
RG	60	Alex Fletcher (6-4, 295, Jr.)
RT	70	Jeff Edwards (6-6, 290, Sr.)
TE	82	Patrick Danahy (6-4, 240, Sr.)
WR	8	Evan Moore (6-7, 235, Sr.)
WR	4	Mark Bradford (6-2, 200, Sr.)

DE	91	Pannell Egboh (6-6, 260, Jr.)
DT	54	Ekem Udofiga (6-2, 335, So.)
DT	93	Matt Kopa (6-6, 270, So.)
DE	90	Udeme Udofiga (6-4, 240, Sr.)
OLB	48	Mike Silva (6-2, 225, Sr.)
MLB	55	Michael Okwo (6-0, 220, Sr.)
OLB	57	Clinton Snyder (6-4, 215, So.)
CB	2	Nick Sanchez (6-0, 185, Sr.)
CB	14	Tim Sims (5-11, 190, Sr.)
FS	24	Trevor Hooper (6-1, 205, Sr.)
SS	6	David Lofton (6-4, 220, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	39	Aaron Zagory (6-0, 165, Jr.)
P	27	Jay Ottovaglio (6-0, 195, Sr.)



PRESEASON RANK

#8

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	3
2003	2
2002	4
2001	5

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Mike Stoops, 3rd year (6-16)

Career record: 6-16

Stadium: Arizona Stadium

Capacity: 56,002

Official athletic Web site:  
www.arizonaathletics.com

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Bingham Young	
S.9	@LSU	
S.16	Stephen F. Austin	
S.23	USC	21-42
S.30	Washington	14-38
O.7	@UCLA	52-14
O.14	@STANFORD	16-20
O.21	Oregon State	29-27
N.4	@WASHINGTON ST	
N.11	California	0-28
N.18	@OREGON	21-28
N.25	Arizona State	20-23

## GAME TO WATCH

If the 'Cats are in bowl contention, this becomes the biggest game in Tucson in five years.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/17

## OFFENSE

QB	7	Willie Tuitama (6-3, 218, So.)
FB	45	Brandon Lopez (6-1, 220, So.)
RB	19	Chris Henry (6-0, 215, Jr.)
LT	76	Peter Graniello (6-6, 285, Jr.)
LG	74	Adam Hawes (6-4, 302, Sr.)
C	71	Erick Levitre (6-1, 282, Sr.)
RG	75	Joe Longacre (6-3, 303 So.)
RT	72	Tanner Beil (6-8, 294, Sr.)
TE	87	Brandy McCall (6-4, 245, Jr.)
WR	9	A. Johnson (6-2, 205, Jr.)
WR	10	Mike Thomas (5-8, 178, So.)

## DEFENSE

DE	97	Johnathan Turner (6-3, 260, So.)
DT	96	Yaniv Barnett (6-1, 285, Jr.)
DT	54	Lionel Dotson (6-4, 280, Jr.)
DE	55	Marcus Smith (6-5, 285, Sr.)
SLB	39	Dane Krogstad (6-2, 240, Jr.)
MLB	33	Ronnie Palmer (6-3, 239, So.)
WLB	51	Spencer Larsen (6-1, 240, Jr.)
CB	3	Wilrey Fontenot (5-9, 174, Jr.)
CB	5	Antoine Cason (6-0, 182, Jr.)
FS	34	Brandon Tatum (6-1, 188, So.)
SS	23	Michael Johnson (6-2, 210, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	12	Nick Folk (6-1, 215, Sr.)
P	27	Kyle McQuown (5-9, 175, Jr.)

# ARIZONA WILDCATS

2005 Record: 3-8 overall, 2-6 PAC-10

Officially and forever, Mike Stoops' honeymoon with the Arizona football program ends on Sept. 2. That's when the Wildcats face Brigham Young in the opener of their third season under Stoops—and when the winning begins.

Stoops received a free pass for two years after inheriting the mess that John Mackovic left, and in those two seasons he has given Wildcat fans reason to be optimistic. They beat Arizona State to close Stoops' first season and whipped UCLA last fall. But both seasons, the 'Cats finished 3-8. That won't cut it this year.

No one is asking Stoops to win eight games. But the 'Cats need to show tangible improvement—at least five wins, maybe six—or the grumbling will begin. And in Tucson, where UA sports are the only show in town, the grumbling can get very loud very quickly.

The Wildcats seemingly have the ingredients to make the leap to respectability. Sophomore quarterback Willie Tuitama is the most talented passer they've had—perhaps ever. The lines are the deepest and most experienced they've been in the Stoops era. The linebackers and defensive backs are among the most talented in the league.

"We're close, and people realize that," Stoops told reporters on the first day of spring practice.

But to turn potential into victories, the Wildcats will need consistency from Tuitama, a sophomore who had a 137.0 passing efficiency rating in limited action last season.

They'll need someone to take over for departed tailback Mike Bell and lead a running attack that averaged a paltry 122 yards per game in '05. (The best bet is 215-pound junior Chris Henry.)

They'll need big plays from a receiving unit that features senior Syndric Steptoe and sophomore Mike Thomas, who combined for 89 catches a year ago.

They'll need the young, but talented, linebackers (Spencer Larsen, Ronnie Palmer and Dane Krogstad) to stay healthy, something they couldn't do last fall.

They'll need veteran cornerbacks Antoine Cason and Wilrey Fontenot to play lockdown defense on the perimeter, and they'll need someone to replace departed all-league safety Darrell Brooks.

# WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, 1-7 PAC-10

Few teams fell harder and farther than Washington State last season. The Cougars won their first three games, then dropped seven in a row and finished tied (with rival Washington) for last place in the Pac-10.

But it was a deceptive last place. Of WSU's seven losses, five were by four points or less. With a few breaks, the Cougars could have finished sixth, or even fourth.

The same appears true this season. Although this has the makings of another long season in the Palouse, Coach Bill Doba's team has the ingredients—including a favorable schedule—to make a run at a winning season.

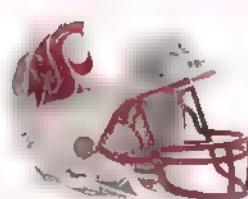
Much of the Cougars' success depends on the play of junior quarterback Alex Brink. He no longer has to worry about competition from Josh Swogger, who transferred to Montana, and can concentrate on running the offense. Brink is not a super talent, but he's got good feet and more than enough arm to become one of the conference's best quarterbacks.

WSU's primary concern is replacing All-America tailback Jerome Harrison, who rushed for 1,900 yards last season. Sophomore DeMaundray Wooridge is the front-runner to win the job in training camp, but Kevin McCall and Dwight Tardy figure to get their share of reps.

Three starters return along the offensive line, which means Brink should have time to throw to one of the league's top receiving units. Senior Jason Hill stands with Cal's DeSean Jackson and USC's Dwayne Jarrett as the best in the West; all he did last season was catch 62 passes and score 13 touchdowns. He's joined on the perimeter by Michael Bumpus, who doubles as a first-class punt returner, and Brandon Gibson.

Defensively, Washington State has one of the league's best linemen in end Mkristo Bruce and a solid set of linebackers. But the Cougars must shore up the secondary, which was the main reason they yielded 289.1 passing yards per game last season. WSU is counting on safety Eric Frampton to be fully recovered from a knee injury that kept him out of spring practice.

The search for starting cornerbacks begins with Tyron Brackenridge, who did not play last season because of academic issues.



PRESEASON RANK:

**#9**

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

	CONFERENCE TITLE	BOWL
2005	4	
2004	5	
2003	▲ 10	
2002	▲ 10	
2001	▲ 10	

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Bill Doba, 4th year

(19-16)

Career record: 19-16

Stadium: Martin Stadium

Capacity: 37,600

Official athletic Web site:  
[www.wsucougars.com](http://www.wsucougars.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@AUBURN	
S.9	Idaho	38-26
S.16	Baylor	
S.23	@STANFORD	21-24
S.30	USC	13-55
S.7	WISCONSIN STATE	▲ 4-3
O.14	California	38-42
O.21	Oregon	31-34
O.28	@UCLA	41-44 (OT)
N.4	Arizona	
N.11	@ARIZONA STATE	24-27
N.18	Washington	26-22

## \* GAME TO WATCH \*

The Cougars will probably need at least one conference road win to get bowl-eligible. This could be the one.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/20

### OFFENSE

QB	10	Alex Brink (6-2, 202, r-Jr.)
SB	5	M. Bumpus (5-11, 186, Jr.)
RB	35	D. Woolridge (5-8, 223, So.)
LT	70	Bobby Byrd (6-7, 314, r-Jr.)
LG	73	Sean O'Connor (6-5, 287, r-Sr.)
C	60	Dan Rowlands (6-5, 283, r-So.)
RG	72	Andy Roof (6-3, 316, r-So.)
RT	55	Charles Harris (6-6, 308, r-Sr.)
TE	41	Jed Collins (6-2, 250, Jr.)
SE	83	Jason Hill (6-2, 208, Sr.)
FL	86	Brandon Gibson (6-0, 195, So.)

### DEFENSE

SE	58	Matt Mullennix (6-5, 256, r-Jr.)
LT	40	Aaron Johnson (6-6, 310, r-Jr.)
RT	92	Fevae'al Ahm (6-1, 284, So.)
WE	94	Mkristo Bruce (6-6, 250, r-Sr.)
SLB	42	Scott Davis (5-10, 228, r-Sr.)
MLB	52	Greg Trent (5-10, 230, So.)
WLB	49	Steve Dilde (6-1, 229, r-Sr.)
LCB	25	Don Turner (6-0, 183, r-Sr.)
RCB	12	T. Brackenridge (6-0, 180, r-Sr.)
FS	23	Husain Abdull (6-0, 189, r-Sr.)
SS	37	Eri Frampton (5-11, 208, r-Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	27	Loren Langley (5-8, 150, Jr.)
P	39	Darryl Blunt (6-0, 178, r-So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

## SEATTLE

# WASHINGTON HUSKIES

2005 Record: 2-9 overall, 1-7 PAC-10

Washington could have had a 13th game this fall by agreeing to play at Hawaii, but Coach Tyrone Willingham declined. Asked to explain his decision during a spring-practice press conference, Willingham indicated that he expects the Huskies to play 13 games without the trip to Honolulu. In other words, he expects UW to play in a bowl game.

There aren't many who share his optimism, given that Washington is 3-19 over the past two seasons. Many longtime Husky watchers believe it will take Willingham at least three years to get the program back to respectability. After several years of poor recruiting under former coaches Rick Neuheisel and Keith Gilbertson, the Huskies simply lack the talent to compete regularly with even the league's mid-level teams.

Willingham has turned programs around by force of will before—see: Stanford, 1999—and there's no doubt that Washington was a tougher and more disciplined team last season than it was under Willingham's predecessors. But it seems unlikely the Huskies will make the jump from two wins to six—especially with a brutal road schedule that includes trips to Oklahoma, USC and Cal.

Much depends on the play of senior QB Isaiah Stanback, a wonderful athlete but inconsistent passer. He played well during spring practice and is expected to be the opening-game starter. What's more, the Huskies plan to let Stanback run more this fall than last. That should help an offensive line that lost four starters and a receiving unit that lost its best deep threat (Craig Chambers). At tailback, watch for redshirt freshman J.R. Hasty to challenge upperclassmen Kenny James and Louis Rankin.

The defensive line should be solid, but Washington's only returning starter at linebacker, Scott White, has been consistently inconsistent throughout his career.

The secondary—as anyone who watched the Huskies play last season would attest—was dreadful. Opponents scored 24 passing touchdowns, the most in UW history. Although all four starters are back, the problems were more about talent than experience.

It's going to take Willingham more than one full recruiting season to restock the roster with the talent the program possessed for so many years.



PRESEASON RANK:

**#10**

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

	CONFERENCE TITLE	BOWL
2005	2	
2004	1	
2003	8	
2002	7	
2001	8	

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Tyrone Willingham,

2nd year (2-9)

Career record: 67-60-1

Stadium: Husky Stadium

Capacity: 72,500

Official athletic Web site:  
[www.gohuskies.com](http://www.gohuskies.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	San Jose State	
S.9	@OKLAHOMA	
S.16	Fresno State	
S.23	UCLA	□-□
S.30	@ARIZONA	38-14
O.7	@USC	24-51
O.14	Oregon State	10-18
O.21	@CALIFORNIA	17-56
O.28	Arizona St.	20-44
N.4	OREGON	21-45
N.11	Stanford	
N.18	@WASHINGT	TOI □ 22-26

## \* GAME TO WATCH \*

Nothing would help the Huskies more with an opening Pac-

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 17/31

### OFFENSE

QB	4	Isaiah Stanback (6-3, 205, Sr.)
FB	43	Mark Paata (5-10, 240, Sr.)
RB	8	Kenny James (5-10, 215, Sr.)
LT	76	Nathan Lowers (6-3, 335, So.)
LG	74	Stanley Daniels (6-4, 310, Sr.)
C	58	Juan Garcia (6-3, 310, Jr.)
RG	63	Clay Walker (6-4, 300, Sr.)
RT	75	Chad McEldowney (6-8, 300, Jr.)
TE	86	Michael Gottlieb (6-5, 240, So.)
WR	21	S. Shackelford (6-2, 180, Sr.)
WR	5	Anthony Russ (5-11, 185, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	91	Donny Mataea (6-5, 285, Sr.)
DT	74	Wilson Afoa (-3, 290, Jr.)
DT	95	Jordan Jeffett (6-5, 295, Jr.)
DE	7	G. Gunther (6-4, 240, Jr.)
OLB	4	Scott Wimbush (6-1, 230, Sr.)
ILB	47	Tahj Bonar (6-2, 215, Sr.)
OLB	29	Chris Stevens (6-0, 195, So.)
CB	6	Matt Fontaine (5-11, 180, Sr.)
CB	8	Dashon Goldsby (6-2, 195, Sr.)
FS	1	Ashlee Palme (6-3, 215, Jr.)
SS	1	C.J. Wallace (-2, 205, Sr.)

PK	14	M. Bratistek (5-8, 185, Jr.)
P	17	Sean Douglas (6-1, 215, Sr.)



Predicted order of finish

**EAST****'Survivor,' gridiron-style, getting ready to play out for Big Four down South**

By SCOTT RABALAIS  
*(The Baton Rouge, La.) Advocate*

Golf has its Big Five. This year, the SEC has its Big Four

"It'll be the same teams there as last year. You're looking at Georgia, LSU and Auburn," says Alabama Coach Mike Shula, forgetfully omitting Florida, the odds-on favorite in the SEC East.

Auburn and LSU in the West, Florida and Georgia in the East.

Going into the 2006 season, the league appears stratified with its haves, have-nots and the middle class. And it's difficult, though not impossible, to imagine anyone but one of the Big Four will emerge as SEC champion.

Still, whoever that team is will no doubt be showing some battle scars. The SEC's heavyweight contenders will spend the fall bashing into each other with concussive force that will register on the Richter Scale of the SEC standings.

As Jim Morrison once sang: "No one here gets out alive."

Shula might have accidentally left Florida off his list of top SEC contenders, but surely the Gators won't be forgetting who their prime opposition is.

Of the Big Four, Florida and Auburn both have to play the other three. LSU and Georgia both "only" have to play Florida and Auburn, having rotated off each other's schedules for now.

Perhaps no one faces a more difficult test than Auburn, who not only doesn't duck any of the

top-flight competition, but also has to play the new 12 game regular season schedule straight through. There is no open date for the Tigers since their Iron Bowl game at Alabama falls on Nov. 18.

"That's almost suicide in the SEC," Tuberville says. "It's kind of like surviving a season."

The other contenders won't be shedding too many tears for Tuberville's Tigers. LSU also hosts Alabama and visits Tennessee, which will be trying to regain its status as a top SEC program after last year's shocking 5-6 freefall. Florida and Georgia of course both have to face the Vols as well.

Alabama, with its games against LSU and Auburn, has its chance to decide who wins the West—and maybe it'll be the Crimson Tide. But 'Bama must be wary of a Sept. 23 trip to Arkansas, another West Division dark horse. The Razorbacks fill a niche similar to South Carolina in the East: no one is expecting either to win its division, but no one relishes the thought of playing them, either.

Of course, most predictions are cursed by the unpredictability of the season itself, which can be embodied by one word: injuries.

"With 12 games you're going to have more injuries," Tennessee Coach Phillip Fulmer says.

That will be true for everyone, including the champion, a team that will know it's been in a fight.

<b>Fastest receiver</b>	Xavier Carter, LSU	<b>Most elusive RB</b>	Darren McFadden, Arkansas	<b>Top NFL prospect</b>	Kenny Irons, RB, Auburn
<b>Best hands</b>	Courtney Taylor, WR, Auburn	<b>Best instincts</b>	David Irons, CB, Auburn	<b>Top impact freshman</b>	Mitch Mustain, QB, Arkansas
<b>Best passing QB</b>	Jamarcus Russell, LSU	<b>Best athlete</b>	Andre Caldwell, WR, Florida	<b>Hardest hitter</b>	Patrick Willis, LB, Ole Miss
<b>Best running QB</b>	Chris Nickson, Vanderbilt	<b>Best under pressure</b>	Chris Leak, QB, Florida	<b>Biggest underachiever</b>	Xavier Carter, WR, LSU

**5****THE GIG TO WATCH**

Is this really a make-or-break year for Tennessee Coach Phillip Fulmer? No one is saying Fulmer has to win to keep his job, but another losing season would have Big Orange fans seeing red.

Will Steve Spurrier be able to keep South Carolina upwardly mobile? The Gamecocks' offense should be even better with the return of Syville Newton, but the defense will keep USC out of the SEC Championship Game once again.

How good a coach is LSU's Les Miles? He was great at crisis management last year, leading the hurricane-plagued Tigers to a 11-2 record. But Tiger fans want to see how Miles does against a killer road schedule.

Houston, do you have a problem? After flirtations with job openings at LSU and Nebraska and two losing seasons, Arkansas Coach Houston Nutt has no room for error.

Will Florida's spread offense be thin again this season? Coach Urban Meyer is adjusting the attack to fit QB Chris Leak's talents, but every great offense needs a great running back—and Florida doesn't have one.

**RECRUITING ROUNDUP:**

**FLORIDA:** Landing QB Tim Tebow merely put the exclamation point on a class that has the Gator faithful singing Urban Meyer's praises all over again.

**GEORGIA:** QB Matthew Stafford and safety Reshad Jones may be the best in the country at their positions.

**LSU:** LSU book-ended its class with nationally sought talent—DT Al Woods and RB Keiland Williams.

**AUBURN:** A class that includes DT Greg Smith, RB Benjamin Tate and WR Tim Hawthorne will help keep Auburn among the SEC's upper echelons.

**ALABAMA:** Keeping Birmingham QB Andre Smith at home was keystone to a class that illustrates steady improvement under Mike Shula.

**OLE MISS:** Counting transfers Brent Schaefer at QB and DT Terrell Powe, this was a surprisingly strong class.

**TENNESSEE:** Aside from highly coveted JUCO DE Walter Fisher, this class wasn't up to the Volunteers' usual sky-high standards.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Spurrier drew in a highly recruited QB in Chris Sneeley and some quality O-linemen.

**ARKANSAS:** Razorbacks needed a good class and kept more top players in state.

**KENTUCKY:** UK's haul lacks depth of top-caliber SEC classes, but DE Micah Johnson was a good pickup.

**MISSISSIPPI STATE:** Aside from Anthony Summers, Bulldogs were routed by Ole Miss.

**VANDERBILT:** Landed a good QB in Jared Funk.



# Terry, Howie, Jimmy...

(and Dan, Boomer, Chris and Phil)



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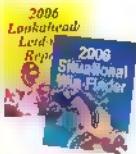
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## FLORIDA



PRESEASON RANK:

# 1

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE					
DEFENSE					
SPECIAL TEAMS					
COACHING					

2005 Record:

**9-3**

SEC

**5-3**

(beat Iowa in the Outback Bowl, 31-24)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Southern Miss	
S.9	UCF	
S.16	@TENNESSEE	16-7
S.23	Kentucky	49-28
S.30	Alabama	3-31
O.7	LSU	17-21
O.14	@AUBURN	
<b>Oct. 28</b> <b>COTTON BOWL</b>		
N.4	@VANDERBILT	49-42 (OT)
N.11	South Carolina	22-30
N.18	Western Carolina	
N.25	@FLORIDA STATE	34-7

## GAME TO WATCH

The annual "World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party" will be the straw that stirs the drink in the SEC East.

\* at Jacksonville, Fla.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/20

## OFFENSE

QB	12	Chris Leak (6-0, 210, Sr.)
FB	42	Billy Latsko (5-10, 231, Sr.)
TB	33	Kestahn Moore (5-10, 212, So.)
LT	75	Phil Trautwein (6-6, 309, Jr.)
LG	63	Jim Tarr (6-3, 310, So.)
C	79	Steve Rissler (6-3, 310, Sr.)
RG	70	Ronnie Wilson (6-4, 310, Jr.)
RT	67	Drew Miller (6-5, 305, Jr.)
TE	84	Tate Casey (6-6, 242, Jr.)
WR	5	Andre Caldwell (6-1, 200, Sr.)
WR	81	Dallas Baker (6-3, 206, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	95	Ray McDonald (6-3, 280, Sr.)
DT	20	Joe Cohen (6-3, 292, Sr.)
DT	44	Marcus Thomas (6-3, 290, Sr.)
DE	94	Jarvis Moss (6-6, 252, Jr.)
LB	30	Earl Everett (6-2, 231, Sr.)
LB	40	Brandon Siler (6-2, 235, Jr.)
LB	55	Jon Demps (6-4, 230, So.)
CB	22	Reggie Lewis (5-10, 195, Sr.)
CB	4	Avery Alix (5-11, 189, So.)
SS	1	Reggie Nelson (6-1, 198, So.)
FS	3	Kyle Jackson (6-1, 200, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	39	Chris Hietland (6-0, 185, Sr.)
P	10	Eric Wilbur (6-1, 203, Sr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

## GATORS

Stadium: Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (88,548)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ★ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Urban Meyer, 2nd year (9-3)

Career record: 48-11

Assistant coaches: Charlie Strong (asst. head coach/co-def. coord./LBs), Greg Mathison (co-def. coord./def. line), Chuck Heater (Cbs/recruiting coord.), John "Doc" Holliday (safeties), Dan Mullen (off. coord./QBs), Billy Gonzales (WRs), John Hevesy (off. line), Steve Addazio (TEs), Stan Drayton (RBs)

This still won't be the true example of the spread offense that Meyer made famous at Utah. After stubbornly trying to force incumbent quarterback Chris Leak into being something he isn't—equal parts runner and passer—Meyer made accommodations in the offense going into this year. The Gators will throw the ball by moving the pocket, not trying to force Leak into being a running quarterback. Just a couple of option plays per game to keep defenses honest—and the coach happy.

Despite Leak's steady hand on the Florida offense the last three years, and his quality numbers last season (235-of-374 passing, 2,639 yards, 20 touchdowns, 6 interceptions), what would make many of the Florida faithful happy would be throwing freshman quarterback Tim Tebow (6-3, 225 pounds) into the offense. Tebow appears tailor-made for Meyer's spread attack, but of course lacks Leak's experience.

Tebow is expected to play—he is Florida's only other scholarship quarterback and participated in spring drills—but Meyer was eager this spring to head off a you-know-what.

"The good thing is that there isn't a quarterback controversy," Meyer says. "For Gator fans and college football fans, that is a great water cooler story in the morning. But Chris Leak is the [starting] quarterback and Tim Tebow is going to be the guy that plays. His [Tebow's] playing time will be dictated by Tim Tebow."

"We're going to let him grow as a quarterback. There is no quarterback controversy. We have two great young men that we're going to build an offense around and be successful."

Leak says he gets along well with Tebow, "like I have always got along well with the other quarterbacks here."

Tebow speaks of Leak deferentially as his mentor: "It's great to have someone with a lot of experience to learn under."

Of course, any quarterback is only as good as his supporting cast. Meyer frankly wishes that could be better.

"We have a serious void at playmakers," Meyer says, "which we shouldn't have here. We have a freshman class that will have a chance to bypass some guys unless we get a little better."

The tailback position is one that is particularly unsettled. The Gators returned their top three ground-gainers from 2005—DeShawn Wynn (621 yards, 7 TDs), Markus Manson (365, 2) and

## SEC EAST

## Gator fans expecting Meyer magic to show itself in Urban's second year

This will be the 100th anniversary season of Florida football. It's a reason to celebrate to be sure, especially the last 25 years in which the Gators supplanted Alabama as the SEC's measuring stick.

But Gator fans hope they'll have more reason to celebrate the future, or the present, than the past.

This is Year Two under Coach Urban Meyer. And that's the year when the Meyer magic usually starts kicking in.

At Bowling Green, his teams went 8-3 and 9-3. At Utah, he went 10-2, then 12-0, leading the Utes to the heady heights of a BCS berth in the Fiesta Bowl.

After three years of wandering in football purgatory under Ron Zook, the Gators showed promise in fits and starts during a 9-3 inaugural season with Meyer. Now the opportunity, and the expectations, will be great.

This is the year Florida is supposed to be Florida again.

"The University of Florida is supposed to win," linebacker Brandon Siler says. "That's why I came here."

The Gators weren't really the boys of old Florida last year. They won but rarely clicked on offense. They rarely stuffed anyone on defense.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Percy Harvin, WR/KL, 5-11, 182

Gators lured Mr. Excitement away from FSU.

2 Tim Tebow, QB, 6-3, 225

Pass-run QW perfect for Gators' system.

3 Carl Johnson, OL, 6-6, 335

At 335 pounds, he loves pancake blocks.

4 Jamar Hornsby, DB, 6-4, 195

Talented athlete may play early.

5 Brandon Spikes, DE, 6-4, 230

Prep linebacker moved to edge.

Kestahn Moore (277, 1)—but it was Moore who emerged as the No. 1 back coming out of the spring.

Not that Meyer was satisfied. "I don't think we're where we need to be," he says.

Things are a little better at receiver, where seniors Dallas Baker (52 catches, 697 yards, 5 TDs) and Andre Caldwell (10, 148) form one of the SEC's best duos. A surprisingly strong addition to the receiving corps in the spring was the emergence of Cornelius Ingram (6-4, 235), a former quarterback.

"He's probably the most natural ball-catcher I've seen since Chris Carter," Meyer says. "You can tell there wasn't a lot of Xbox in his life. He was out in the backyard. He is a very natural catcher and a long strider so he gets a lot of speed. He's a downfield threat, and we need some downfield guys."

The offensive line had to be completely rebuilt after the loss of four starters. The only returner, senior Steve Rissler, was moved from right guard to center to replace Mike Degory. Redshirt freshman Ronnie Wilson slides in to take Rissler's old spot. Drew Miller moved from guard to right tackle, helping solidify the revamped line. Phil Trautwein, who drew post-spring praise from Meyer, is at left tackle, while Jim Tarrt is next to him at left guard. Junior Tate Casey is the new tight end.

Defensively, the Gators were a banged-up bunch in the spring, though few if any of the injuries were expected to be threatening in the fall. End Ray McDonald (6-3, 280) had two ACL surgeries in the offseason that kept him out of the spring, but he was recovering well. Junior Jarvis Moss (6-6, 252), who led the Gators with 7.5 sacks last year, is back at the other end spot.

Marcus Thomas (6-3, 290) came out of the spring as the starter at one defensive-tackle spot because senior Steven Harris (6-4, 281) wasn't allowed to practice for disciplinary reasons. His status with the team was in doubt going into

the fall. Senior Joe Cohen (6-3, 292) mans the other tackle spot.

The Gators' top two tacklers return to lead the linebacker corps: senior Earl Everett (72 tackles, 2 interceptions) and Siler (64 stops), a junior. Sophomore Jon Demps takes over at the strongside spot from Todd McCullough. Senior Reggie Nelson (46 tackles) is the only returner in the secondary, moving from free to strong safety. Senior Reggie Lewis and sophomore Avery Atkins take over at cornerback, while Kyle Jackson is at free safety.

Both kickers return, keeping Florida on solid footing there. Punter Eric Wilbur averaged 41.7 yards per kick last season, earning him a Ray Guy Award nomination. Placekicker Chris Hetland was second-team All-SEC after converting 38 of 40 extra points and 13 of 16 field-goal attempts.

Though the Gators have the talent to win the SEC East, the schedule may prove to be a stumbling block—or blocks. Aside from the annual grudge match in Jacksonville against Georgia, the Gators have to travel to Tennessee and Auburn. A two-game test at home against Alabama and LSU will be a difficult midseason stretch. And then there is the season finale against Florida State, this year in Tallahassee.

Even Meyer is of the opinion that the Gators may be better than they were in 2005 but that their schedule may not cast an accurate reflection because of the degree of difficulty.

But, remember, Florida has the second-year Meyer magic in its corner. After a year in his system, it would be foolish not to expect the Gators to win—and win big—in 2006.



## NEXT BIG THING

### TIM TEBOW, freshman quarterback

Tim Tebow looked impressive in Florida's spring football game—maybe a little too much for Gators Coach Urban Meyer.

Tebow, one of the top quarterback recruits in last year's class, generated quite the buzz among the fans who showed up at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium in April, outplaying three-year starter Chris Leak and causing many to bring up the "c" word—controversy.

Meyer worked quickly after the game to quell any of that talk, but did add, "I was enjoying watching Tim Tebow and Chris Leak compete a little bit."

Although Meyer danced around the "c" word, it was hard to overlook the fact Tebow seemed much more comfortable in Meyer's spread offense, completing 15 of 21 passes for 197 yards and touchdown.

"The way the game started, he was a little nervous," Meyer said of Tebow's performance. "One of the advantages we have over a lot of

schools is to play in front of 45,000 people in the spring. It's hard to simulate. But in the end, he's one of those players, as the game continues, he gets better and better."

Leak's numbers (17-of-33 for 145 yards and a TD) didn't help the senior, who had trouble at times last season grasping Meyer's complex offensive scheme.

Tebow, from Nease High in St. Augustine, came to Gainesville after having broken Florida prep records for career passing yards (9,940) and touchdowns (159). The dual threat threw for 3,442 yards and 34 TDs his senior season while rushing for 1,045 yards and 21 scores.

It's that kind of potential that turned Meyer into a broken record this offseason, as he's had to repeatedly confirm that Leak will be the starting QB Sept. 2 when Florida opens its season against Southern Miss.

So, no controversy—for now.

—Matt McKenzie

## 2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	FLORIDA	SEC
SCORING	343	226
Points Per Game	28.6	18.8
FIRST DOWNS	245	198
Rushing	105	67
Passing	124	109
Penalty	16	22
RUSHING YARDAGE	1761	1139
Yards gained rushing	2157	1495
Yards lost rushing	406	356
Rushing Attempts	455	373
Average Per Rush	3.9	3.1
Average Per Game	146.8	94.9
TDs Rushing	19	14
PASSING YARDAGE	2720	2459
All-Comp-Int	385-241-7	375-196-16
Average Per Pass	7.1	6.6
Average Per Catch	11.3	12.5
Average Per Game	226.7	204.9
TDs Passing	20	16
TOTAL OFFENSE	4481	5598
Total Plays	840	748
Average Per Play	5.3	4.8
Average Per Game	373.4	299.8
KICK RETURNS, #-YDS	30-618	51-1006
PUNT RETURNS, #-YDS	35-251	18-60
INT RETURNS, #-YDS	16-145	7-111
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	20.6	19.7
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.2	3.3
INT RETURN AVERAGE	9.1	15.3
FUMBLES-LOST	20-6	21-15
PENALTIES-YARDS	102-783	64-493
Average Per Game	65.2	41.1
PUNTS-YARDS	62-2542	64-2514
Average Per Punt	41.0	39.3
Net punt average	38.1	34.1
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME	32:37	27:13
3RD-DOWN CONV.	67/176	56/159
3rd-Down Pct	38%	35%
4TH-DOWN CONV	12/22	6/16
4th-Down Pct	55%	38%
SACKS BY YARDS	33-232	35-224
MISC YARDS	28	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	43	30
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	13-16	6-12
PAT-ATTEMPTS	40-42	28-29
ATTENDANCE	542435	323861
Games/Avg Per Game	6/90406	4/80915
Neutral Site Games	2/75191	

GP	W	D	L	GP	W	D	L	GP	W	D	L				
Florida	69	125	78	57	14	343		Opponent	55	47	41	76	7	226	

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

### OFFENSE

#### PASSING

Chris Leak	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	12	136.54	374-235-6	62.8	2639	20	219.9
Josh Portis	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	6	98.22	11-6-1	54.5	81	0	13.5

M. Manson	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
DeShawn Wynn	11	130	621	4.8	7	56.5
Kestahn Moore	12	81	365	4.5	2	30.4

J. Herring	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Chad Jackson	12	88	900	10.2	9	75.0
Dallas Baker	12	52	697	13.4	5	58.1

J. Herring	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
1	29	383	13.2	1	34.8	
E. Everett	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G

E. Everett	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
1	39	33	31	64		
J. Herring	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G

J. Herring	GP	No.	Yds.
J. Herring	11	75	54
J. Herring	11	40	32
J. Herring	12	40	21

Vernell Brown	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Vernell Brown	3	63	21.0	1	
Earl Everett	2	7	3.5	0	
J. Herring	2	26	13.0	0	



ATHENS

## GEORGIA



SEC EAST

**Moses has promised land covered on defense, but who'll be the next David Greene for Dawgs?**

Skeptics wondered how Georgia could continue to win at a double-digit, championship-caliber clip last year after the Bulldogs lost David Greene and David Pollack to graduation. All they did was line up behind players like quarterback D.J. Shockley and free safety Greg Blue and won the SEC title for the second time in four years.

Skeptics are wondering again how Georgia will be able to maintain the roll that has seen the Bulldogs average 11 wins a season the last four years, this time without players like Shockley or Blue, tight end Leonard Pope or defensive tackle Kedric Golston.

Georgia Coach Mark Richt has heard the questions. Like the Florida State teams he used to coach on that just kept winning and winning year after year, Richt and his Bulldogs keep coming up with the answers.

"People said, 'How are you going to survive without Greene and Pollack?'" Richt says. "I never really sweated it too much. We've recruited well and we all know what we're doing."

**RATING THE RECRUITS**

**1** *Malcolm Ballard, DE, 6-3, 310*

*Texas prep superstar is prime recruit*

**2** *Reshad Jones, DB, 6-2, 180*

*Cornerback may see early action.*

**3** *Justin Anderson, OL, 6-5, 320*

*Small-school blocker has NFL size.*

**4** *McDerris Ward, TE, 6-5, 247*

*How did this prospect leave California?*

**5** *Akeem Hebron, DB, 6-1, 195*

*Finding best position is key for this superb athlete.*



PRESEASON RANK.

#2

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★

2005 Record:

10-3      6-2

(lost to West Virginia in the Sugar Bowl, 38-35)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
8/2	Western Kentucky	
8/9	@SOUTH CAROLINA	17-15
8/16	UAB	
8/23	MISSISSIPPI	
8/30	@MISSISSIPPI	
9/7	Tennessee	27-14
9/14	Vanderbilt	34-17
9/21	Mississippi State	23-10
9/28	@FLORIDA*	10-14
10/5	@KENTUCKY	45-13
10/12	@AUBURN	30-31
10/19	Georgia Tech	14-7

## GAME TO WATCH

*It wouldn't be at all surprising to see a rematch between these two old rivals three weeks later in Atlanta.*

\*at Jacksonville, Fla.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11  
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/22

## OFFENSE

QB 13	Joe Tereshinski (6-3, 217, Sr.)
FB 36	Brannan Southerland (6-0, 242, Jr.)
TB 20	Thomas Brown (5-8, 185, Jr.)
ST 79	Ken Shackleford (6-5, 315, Sr.)
SG 75	Fernando Velasco (6-4, 315, Jr.)
C 70	Nick Jones (6-3, 295, Sr.)
TC 67	Chesler Adams (6-4, 320, Jr.)
TT 72	Daniel Inman (6-7, 319, Sr.)
TE 87	Martrez Milner (6-4, 240, Sr.)
SE 1	Mohamed Massaquoi (6-2, 198, So.)
FL 88	Kenneth Harris (6-3, 214, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE 99	Charles Johnson (6-2, 262, Jr.)
DT 90	Ray Gant (6-2, 277, Sr.)
DT 95	Jeff Owens (6-3, 280, So.)
DE 94	Quentin Moses (6-5, 250, Sr.)
SLB 12	Brandon Miller (6-4, 248, Jr.)
MLB 43	Jarvis Jackson (6-2, 218, Sr.)
WT 41	Tony Taylor (6-1, 237, Sr.)
SC 29	Thomas Flowers (5-10, 186, Jr.)
WC 8	Paul Oliver (6-0, 205, Jr.)
FS 30	Kelin Johnson (6-1, 192, Jr.)
ROV 25	Tra Battle (5-11, 176, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK 96	Brandon Coutu (6-0, 185, Jr.)
P 95	Gordon Ely-Kelso (6-2, 215, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Official athletic Web site: www.georgiadogs.com

## BULLDOGS

Stadium: Sanford Stadium (92,746)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



## ■ CONFERENCE TITLE   ▲ BOWL   \* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Mark Richt, 6th year (52-13)

Career record: 52-13

Assistant coaches: Rodney Garner (asst. head coach/def line/recruiting coord.), Neil Callaway (off. coord./off. line), Jon Fabris (def ends), Willie Martinez (def coord./secondary), John Eason (assoc head coach/WRs), John Jancek (LBs), Tony Ball (RBs), Mike Bobo (Quarterbacks), David Johnson (TEs)

We should continue to do well, and that's what I hope is happening."

The challenge is there for Georgia, without question. The Bulldogs lost half their starters from the team that crushed LSU 34-14 in the SEC Championship Game, then saw its rally fall short 38-35 against West Virginia in the Sugar Bowl.

How to get back there again is the challenge for a new wave of Georgia players who have a weighty legacy to live up to.

As is so often the case, Georgia's fortunes start with its quarterback.

Senior Joe Tereshinski is cast in much the same role that Shockley was a year ago: a career understudy given his chance finally to star on the big stage. Shockley's turn in the spotlight resulted in an SEC championship and All-SEC recognition for himself. Obviously, the 6-foot-3, 217-pound Tereshinski—who completed 25 of 49 passes for 371 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions last year—has a lot to live up to. Or he may find himself in the shadows once again. Redshirt freshman Joe Cox (6-1, 200) shined in the spring game while Tereshinski struggled. Some are pinning their hopes to another freshman, Matthew Stafford (6-3, 210).

Coming out of the spring, the only thing Richt would commit to was that Tereshinski is the No. 1 man going into the fall. Who is No. 1 when Georgia opens Sept. 2 against Western Kentucky involves some guesswork, much more than has surrounded the quarterback position at Georgia in many years.

"We're still trying to figure out who our quarterback will be," Richt says. "Right now, Joe is the first guy going into the fall, but I'm not sure where we'll fall in after that. Eight practices out of our first game with Western Kentucky, we'll have it narrowed down to two."

Georgia's tailback depth chart is filled with juniors—Thomas Brown (5-8, 185), Kregg Lumpkin (6-1, 220), Danny Ware (6-1, 223) and Jason Johnson (5-9, 191). Though he's the least physically imposing of the foursome, it was Brown who distanced himself from the rest during the spring. After leading Georgia in rushing for the second straight year (147 carries, 736 yards, 4 TDs), it appears Brown has put himself in position to get the majority of the carries again.

The spring was a tough one for Georgia's receiver corps as five wideouts missed some or all of the practice sessions with injuries. One, Sean Bailey, won't return until 2007. When the other players'

injuries heal, Mohamed Massaquoi and Kenneth Harris are expected to step into starting roles. Massaquoi had 38 catches for 505 yards and two scores last year, while Harris caught 11 passes for 216 yards and a touchdown. New tight end Martrez Milner takes over for Pope but has always been plagued by drops throughout his career.

Nick Jones (6-3, 295) moves from left guard to center for his senior season. Replacing him will be Fernando Velasco (6-4, 315) or Zeb McKinney (6-3, 285). Ken Shackleford (6-5, 315) takes over at left tackle for Daniel Inman (6-7, 319), who was switched to right tackle. Chester Adams (6-4, 320) takes over for Max Jean-Gilles at right guard.

Right from the start in spring practice, Georgia coaches started moving players around on defense trying to find the best lineup.

First, they flipped Tony Taylor (6-1, 237) and Jarvis Jackson (6-2, 218), with Taylor moving to weakside linebacker and Jackson to the middle. Taylor was a weakside linebacker in 2003, missed all of 2004 and played inside last year. Cornerbacks Paul Oliver (6-0, 205) and Thomas Flowers (5-10, 186) also switched sides of the defense.

Defensive end Quentin Moses made a big, David Pollack-like name for himself last year with 11.5 sacks, then like Pollack decided to return for his senior year instead of turning pro. But it was fellow end Charles Johnson (6-2, 262) who made the biggest noise in the spring, having shed some 18 pounds since the Sugar Bowl and turning himself into a swift offensive disrupter. Ray Gant, formerly listed as nose tackle, and Jeff Owens man the tackle spots as Georgia morphs into a more traditional 4-3 defense.

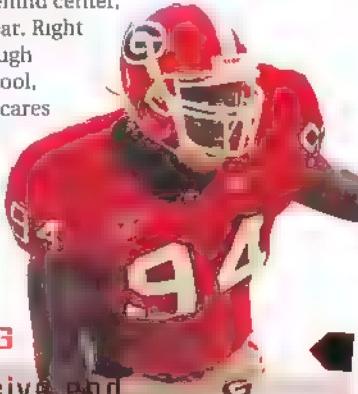
Backup strongside linebacker Danny Verdun-Wheeler (6-2, 244) was one of the many to miss spring practice with injuries, leaving more

practice time for Brandon Miller (6-4, 248). Georgia is thin there and positively green in the secondary, where only senior roverback Tra Battle, a former walk-on, returns as a starter. Kelvin Johnson takes over from Blue at free safety.

Georgia has no worries in the kicking department with placekicker Brandon Coutu and punter Gordon Ely Kelso returning for their junior and senior seasons, respectively. Coutu has made all 43 of his career extra-point attempts and was exceptionally accurate on field goals last season, making 23 of 29. Ely-Kelso was second in the SEC last season at 42.9 yards per kick, helping the Bulldogs rank eighth nationally with a 38.7 net-punting average. Thomas and Remarcus Brown will handle kickoff return duties, while Flowers returns punts.

An early trip to South Carolina on Sept. 9 will test Georgia's ability to be a contender in the SEC East. Florida awaits in Jacksonville on Oct. 28, a game that could be for the inside track to the SEC Championship Game. A Nov. 11 trip to Auburn, Georgia's final SEC game, will be the last of 11 straight grueling weeks for the Bulldogs and may be a preview of this year's title twosome.

But to get back there, to maintain its heady success, Georgia needs to find the right trigger man to play behind center, as it did last year. Right now, even though Richt plays it cool, everyone who cares about Georgia football is sweating it out, wondering just who that will be.



## NEXT BIG THING

### QUENTIN MOSES, senior defensive end

Mario Williams dominated the headlines last spring when he became the NFL's No. 1 draft choice.

Quentin Moses may be in the same position next April.

The Georgia defensive end has all the talent to become a dominant superstar, and could be one of the top players taken in the NFL Draft. Notre Dame's Brady Quinn is the early favorite to hear his name called first next April, but don't count out Moses, who is coming off a season in which he had 44 tackles, 11.5 sacks, 20.5 tackles for loss and 38 quarterback hurries

If he can turn just a few of those hurries into sacks, he will certainly get his ticket punched.

Moses is not thinking about next year's draft status. The only thing on his mind is improving so he can help the Bulldogs become a better football team. If he needs any help keeping his mind on his business, he gets it from his mother, Claudette Smith, who won't allow her son to become too impressed by his own accomplishments.

Instead of gushing over her son, she points out the play of former Bulldog and current

Cincinnati Bengals linebacker Odell Thurman and lets him know that he should aspire to meet his standards.

"She makes remarks," Moses says. "I'm highly critical of myself, but she is, too."

After a Bulldog home game, Smith usually waits for her son and lets him know what she thinks of her son's performance. "I want to see you hit him like Odell did. Get one of them [former Bulldog free safety] Greg Blue hits," she jokes with Quentin. "Anybody can wrap them up. I want you to hit them."

Smith was reported to be quite a speedster in her younger years as a track athlete, and Moses has the kind of high-revving motor to cause havoc in the SEC. He comes around the corner with a low center of gravity and a nose for the quarterback.

"I guess people consider me an edge-rusher type of guy," Moses says. "But I always have people tell me how fast my mom was. She was the fastest thing around."

Perhaps, but the smart money is on her son to show his quickness this fall.

—Steve Silverman

## 2005 TEAM STATS

	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
SCORING	384				213	
Points Per Game	29.5				16.4	
FIRST DOWNS	258				229	
Rushing	106				114	
Passing	132				101	
Penalty	20				14	
RUSHING YARDAGE	2108				1870	
Yards gained rushing	2351				2355	
Yards lost rushing	243				485	
Rushing Attempts	455				486	
Average Per Rush	4.6				3.8	
Average Per Game	162.2				143.8	
TDS Rushing	16				17	
PASSING YARDAGE	2977				2205	
Alt-Cmp-Int	363-201-7				369-211-16	
Average Per Pass	8.2				6.0	
Average Per Catch	14.8				10.5	
Average Per Game	229.0				169.6	
TDS Passing	26				8	
TOTAL OFFENSE	5085				4075	
Total Plays	818				855	
Average Per Play	6.2				4.8	
Average Per Game	391.2				313.5	
KICK RETURNS, #-YDS	28-545				54-994	
PUNT RETURNS, #-YDS	33-456				18-159	
NR RETURNS, #-YDS	16-162				7-82	
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.5				18.4	
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	13.8				8.8	
INT RETURN AVERAGE	10.1				11.7	
FUMBLES-LOST	21-11				27-13	
PENALTIES-YARDS	77-687				104-756	
Average Per Game	53.6				58.2	
PUNTS-YARDS	57-2443				80-3140	
Average Per Punt	42.9				39.2	
Net punt average	38.7				32.0	
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME	28:36				31:24	
3RD-DOWN CONV	60/163				70/188	
3rd-Down Pct	37%				37%	
4TH-DOWN CONV	7/12				9/16	
4th-Down Pct	58%				56%	
SACKS BY-YARDS	34-290				20-90	
MISC YARDS	0				25	
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	45				27	
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	23-30				9-12	
PAT-ATTEMPTS	45-45				24-25	
ATTENDANCE	556206				253607	
Games/Avg Per Game	6/92701				4/63402	
Neutral Site Games					3/77559	

## 2005 TEAM RECORD

	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Georgia	80	115	101	88	384	
Opponent	55	47	44	67	213	

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

### OFFENSE

#### PASSING

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	148.26	310-173-5	55.8	2588	24	215.7

#### JOE TERESHINSKI

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	113.19	49-25-2	51.0	371	1	28.5

#### RUSHING

GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
12	147	736	5.0	4	61.3
13	101	492	4.9	1	37.8
13	66	335	5.1	3	25.8

#### RECEIVING

GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
12	39	541	13.9	4	45.1
13	38	505	13.3	2	38.8
13	35	529	15.1	6	40.7

#### DEFENSE

##### TACKLES

GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
13	70	26	96
12	56	28	84
12	48	23	71

##### SACKS

GP	No.	Yds.
13	11.5	93
13	5.0	41
13	4.0	37

##### INTERCEPTIONS

No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
4	79	19.8	1
3	30	10.0	0
2	43	21.5	0

# TENNESSEE



## Volunteers hope return of Cutcliffe to 'Rocky Top' will bring new life to the Tennessee offense

**S**ince the SEC expanded and split into divisions in 1992, every SEC program has had its dismal seasons.

Last year, it was finally Tennessee's turn.

Until 2005, Tennessee had been the standard of consistency in the SEC going back to the dawn of divisional play. Along with their national championship and two SEC titles, the Volunteers had never won less than eight games in a season.

Last year, a promising 3-1 start that included a thrilling 30-27 overtime win at No. 3 LSU devolved into Orange crushed. The Vols dropped five of their last seven—including rare losses to South Carolina and Vanderbilt—to finish 5-6, their first losing season since 1988.

To get Tennessee back to its old winning ways, Coach Phillip Fulmer has gone old-school. During the offseason he lured former UT offensive coordinator and Ole Miss head coach David Cutcliffe back to Knoxville to breathe life into an offense that ranked 10th in the SEC in points scored a year ago.

"David adds a lot to our staff with his experience and enthusiasm," Fulmer says. "He did a great job getting the quarterbacks closer to where they need to be. I don't expect him to sprinkle magic dust on the offense and everything's fixed, but he'll be creative in what he's doing."

At most practices during the spring, Cutcliffe did nothing but work exclusively with junior

### RATING THE RECRUITS

**JUNIOR COLLEGE STANDOUTS**

**2 Jacques McClendon, DL, 6-3, 325**  
Early Vols recruit has future potential.

**3 Quintin Hancock, WR, 6-2, 185**  
Could be a prime-time player in future.

**4 Ramone Johnson, DL, 6-4, 305**  
Illinois product could also play defense.

**5 Brent Vinson, WR, 6-2, 180**  
Virginian hails from fertile recruiting area.



PRESEASON RANK:

#3

OFFENSE	3	3
DEFENSE	3	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	3	3
COACHING	3	3

2005 Record: 5-6 SEC 3-5

### 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
S.9	Air Force	
S.16	Florida	7-16
S.23	Marshall	
S.30	@MEMPHIS	20-16
O.7	@GEORGIA	14-27
O.21	Alabama	3-6
O.28	@SOUTH CAROLINA	15-16
N.4	LSU	30-27 (OT)
N.11	@ARKANSAS	
N.18	@VANDERBILT	24-28
N.25	Kentucky	27-8

*The Volunteers rebuilt defense will get an early baptism by fire from the Bears' highly sophisticated offense.*

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11

• Senior Marvin Mitchell (S-3, 235, Sr.)

• Senior Antonio Reynolds (D-3, 260, Jr.)

• Senior Cory Anderson (D-3, 255, Sr.)

• Senior Turk McBride (D-4, 275, Jr.)

• Senior Justin Harrell (D-4, 300, Sr.)

• Senior Ryan Karl (D-0, 225, Jr.)

• Senior Marvin Mitchell (D-3, 235, Sr.)

• Senior Rico McCoy (D-1, 215, Fr.)

• Senior Eric Young (D-4, 310, Jr.)

• Senior Chris Brown (D-3, 259, Jr.)

• Senior Robert Meachem (D-3, 210, Jr.)

• Senior Jayson Swain (D-1, 205, Sr.)

• Freshman Antonio Reynolds (D-3, 260, Jr.)

• Freshman Turk McBride (D-4, 275, Jr.)

• Freshman Justin Harrell (D-4, 300, Sr.)

• Freshman Ryan Karl (D-0, 225, Jr.)

• Freshman Marvin Mitchell (D-3, 235, Sr.)

• Freshman Rico McCoy (D-1, 215, Fr.)

• Freshman Eric Young (D-4, 310, Jr.)

• Freshman Chris Brown (D-3, 259, Jr.)

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• Freshman Justin Harrell (D-4, 300, Sr.)

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# SOUTH CAROLINA

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	7
2004	8
2003	5
2002	5
2001	9

■ CONFERENCE TITLE   ▲ BOWL   \* NATIONAL TITLE

## Gamecock offense will depend on Rice, Spurrier's next South Carolina treat

In the end, the 7-5 record that made South Carolina fans so happy in their first year under Steve Spurrier was only one win better than the 6-5 record that marked a dissatisfying end to the Lou Holtz regime.

The numbers, however, require closer examination. Within that 7-5 record was a 5-3 mark in the SEC. That was good enough for a tie for second in the Eastern Division with Florida, South Carolina's best finish since joining the SEC in 1992. In fact, the Gamecocks were within a victory of getting into the SEC Championship Game for the first time ever.

That 7-5 record also included USC's first ever win at Tennessee and its first victory over Florida since 1939. Now, with a second year of Spurrier's offensive tutelage, one can understand why expectations are jumping off the charts in Gamecock Country.

Offensively, USC returns six starters, among them junior Blake Mitchell, who took the first snap in 11 of South Carolina's 12 games last season. But redshirt freshman Cade Thompson (6-2, 181 pounds) pushed him hard in the spring, leaving Spurrier in the role of having to defend the incumbent.

"Blake didn't play his best" in the spring game, Spurrier says. "But he's still the starter. But it was encouraging that Cade says, 'Hey, if something happens, I can go play.'"

Though South Carolina showed flashes of the superior Spurrier passing game last season, the running game that always was an underrated component of Spurrier's great Florida offenses was anemic bystander. The Gamecocks eked out 95.2 yards per game rushing, ranking 108th of 117 Division I-A teams and 11th out of 12 in the SEC.

That may have changed with one play in South Carolina's spring game, the play when Cory Boyd broke free on a 71-yard run. Boyd, suspended all of last season, may still officially be the backup to sophomore Mike Davis. But he had Spurrier thinking back to his glorious, well-grounded days at Florida.

"He looks like a big-time back," Spurrier says. "There's no question about that."

The receiving corps has abundant talent, led by sophomore Sidney Rice, perhaps the next star in the Spurrier offensive constellation.

Kenny McKinley is the other starter at receiver, while senior Noah Whiteside (5-10, 180) is back from the broken leg he suffered in the 2005 spring game and is the Gamecocks' top option when USC goes to its frequent three-receiver sets.

The wild card in the receiver corps is senior Syville Newton, a former quarterback who's



PRESEASON RANK:

#4

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★☆
DEFENSE	★☆
SPECIAL TEAMS	★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:

7-5      SEC 5-3

(lost to Missouri in the Independence Bowl, 38-31)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

A.31	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
S.9	Georgia	15-17
S.16	Wofford	
S.23	Florida Atlantic	
S.28	Auburn	7-48
O.7	@KENTUCKY	44-16
O.21	@VANDERBILT	35-28
O.28	Tennessee	16-15
N.4	Arkansas	14-10
<hr/>		
N.18	Middle Tennessee State	2-2
N.25	@CLEMSON	9-13

## GAME TO WATCH

Who will get more cheers in Florida Field—Spurrier or the Gators?

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 10  
Lettermen returning/lost: 40/24

### OFFENSE

QB	12	Blake Mitchell (6-3, 206, Jr.)
FB	39	Lanard Stafford (5-9, 242, Jr.)
TB	25	Mike Davis (5-9, 210, So.)
LT	75	Gurminder Thind (6-4, 286, So.)
LG	55	Thomas Coleman (6-3, 315, Sr.)
C	60	Chris White (6-3, 316, Sr.)
RG	67	James Thompson (6-3, 323, Jr.)
RT	77	Jamon Meredith (6-4, 290, Jr.)
TE	84	Jared Cook (6-5, 229, Fr.)
WR	4	Sidney Rice (6-3, 200, So.)
WR	11	Kenny McKinley (5-11, 181, So.)

### DEFENSE

DE	41	Jordin Lindsey (6-3, 248, Jr.)
OT	79	Marque Hall (6-3, 291, Jr.)
NT	95	Nathan Pepper (6-1, 278, So.)
DE	99	Dakota Walker (6-3, 226, So.)
OLB	53	Marvin Sapp (5-11, 216, So.)
MLB	52	Jasper Brinkley (6-2, 250, Jr.)
OLB	35	Brent Davis (6-1, 204, Fr.)
CB	8	Fred Bennett (6-1, 199, Sr.)
CB	5	Carlos Thomas (5-10, 174, So.)
ROV	26	Brandon Issac (6-2, 191, Sr.)
FS	17	Mychal Belcher (6-0, 190, Fr.)

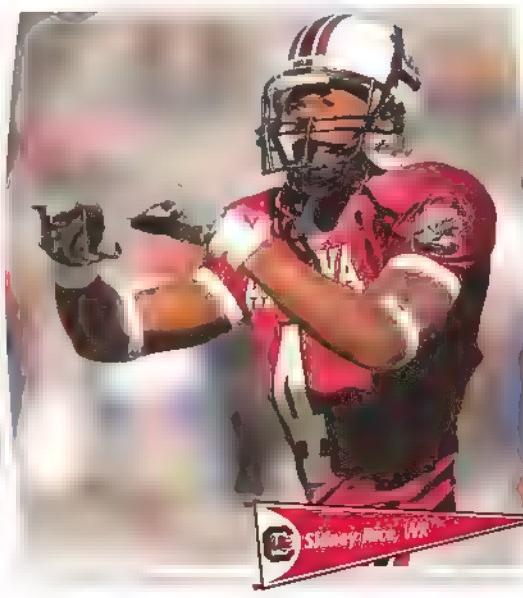
### SPECIALISTS

PK	14	Ryan Succop (6-3, 214, So.)
P	14	Ryan Succop (6-3, 214, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

# GAMECOCKS

Stadium: Williams-Brice Stadium (80,250)



SEC EAST

coming off Achilles surgery. South Carolina lists him as one of Rice's backups, but Spurrier also has the option to move him around to tailback or even safety.

Co Defensive Coordinator John Thompson is gone, leaving the defense completely in the hands of Tyrone Nix. With Nix calling the formations, the Gamecocks will be expected to play more of a conventional 4-3 with fewer of the unorthodox looks that Thompson's defenses are known to throw at the offense.

The Gamecocks can also be expected to struggle on defense with just four starters returning. A ray of hope in the spring was the play of junior-college transfer Jasper Brinkley, who took charge at middle linebacker.

Ryan Succop will both kick and punt, but he needs to improve his consistency in both areas.

The schedule gets interesting right away. In Week Two, Georgia visits Columbia for a Sept. 9 showdown. South Carolina wraps up the season Nov. 25 at archrival Clemson.

But the most compelling game will be Nov. 11. That's when Spurrier takes the Gamecocks into Florida Field, a place where the Ol' Ball Coach is still mightily revered.

**Head coach: Steve Spurrier, 2nd year (7-5)**

**Career record: 149-45-2**

**Assistant coaches:** Robert Gillespie (RBs), Dave Wommack (OLBs), Fred Chatham (TEs/special teams), Brad Lawing (def line), Tyrone Nix (def coord./LBs), David Reaves (QBs asst/recruiting coord.), John Hunt (off line), Ron Cooper (asst. head coach/secondary), Steve Spurrier Jr. (WRs)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 Chris Swolley, QB, 6-3, 210.**  
*Is he the Gamecock QB of the future?*

**2 Hutch Eckerson, OL, 6-6, 265**

*This blocker could play early.*

**3 Heath Bachelor, OL, 6-7, 290**

*Alabama product should contribute.*

**4 Pierre Andrews, OL, 6-3, 285**

*North Carolina all-state pick never lost a prep game.*

**5 Mauricio Brown, WR, 6-0, 170**

*Fast track star has bright future.*



LEXINGTON

## KENTUCKY WILDCATS

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	2
2004	2
2003	4
2002	7
2001	2

■ CONFERENCE TITLE   ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Rich Brooks, 4th Year  
(9-25)  
**Career record:** 100-134-4  
**Stadium:** Commonwealth Stadium  
**Capacity:** 67,606  
**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.ukathletics.com](http://www.ukathletics.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	105 RESULT
8/26	@Tennessee	BYE
9/2	Tennessee	BYE
9/9	Texas State	24-31
9/16	Mississippi	7-13
9/23	@Florida	28-49
9/30	Central Michigan	
10/7	South Carolina	16-44
10/14	@LSU	
10/21	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	13-7
10/28	Georgia	13-45
11/4	Vanderbilt	48-43
11/11	Louisiana-Monroe	

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

If the Wildcats can win the ones they're supposed to, a bowl trip may ride on this visit to Knoxville.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Letterman returning/lost: 50/21

## OFFENSE

QB	15	Curtis Pulley (6-4, 203, So.)
FB	38	John Conner (5-11, 243, Fr.)
TB	22	Rafael Little (5-10, 198, Jr.)
LT	69	Aaron Miller (6-5, 300, So.)
LG	78	Christian Johnson (6-4, 325, So.)
C	62	Matt McCutchan (6-3, 310, Sr.)
RG	72	Michael Atcheson (6-3, 300, Sr.)
RT	57	Hayden Lane (6-6, 283, Sr.)
TE	18	Jacob Tamme (6-5, 240, Jr.)
WR	8	DeMoreo Ford (5-10, 189, So.)
WR	19	Keenan Burton (6-2, 195, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

LE	9	Durrell White (6-3, 260, Sr.)
LT	45	Lamar Mills (6-1, 295, Sr.)
RT	98	Myron Pryor (6-1, 307, So.)
RE	20	Dominic Lewis (6-3, 263, Jr.)
SLB	46	Joe Schuler (6-3, 233, Jr.)
MLB	56	Braxton Kelley (6-0, 226, So.)
WLB	16	Wesley Woodyard (6-1, 212, Jr.)
LCB	39	Shomari Moore (5-9, 180, So.)
RCB	7	David Jones (5-10, 194, So.)
FS	2	Marcus McClinton (6-1, 214, So.)
SS	35	Roger Williams (6-0, 200, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	97	J.J. Housley (5-10, 186, So.)
P	44	Tim Masthay (6-2, 200, So.)

2005 Record: 3-8 overall, 2-6 SEC

This could be the year the Kentucky Wildcats turn their football fortunes around.

They've certainly paid for their gridiron success in blood. In all, the Wildcats have had 31 injuries that required surgery since last season. Twelve starters or key backups didn't practice in the spring. Half of the starting defense was sidelined.

"It was by far the most I've ever been around," Coach Rich Brooks says. "It was almost like the 'Twilight Zone.' Some of this stuff you just couldn't believe."

The injuries should lead to greater competition in the fall. That's already started at quarterback, where sophomore Curtis Pulley was running the offense by the end of the spring ahead of 11-game starter Andre Woodson.

Both were working under the direction of the new quarterbacks coach, Randy Sanders, who comes to Lexington after stepping down as Tennessee's offensive coordinator late last season.

Tailback Rafael Little, who rushed for 1,045 yards and nine touchdowns last year, dislocated his wrist in the spring and was one of the many Wildcats who required surgery. He'll be back this fall, but will have to help take up the slack for a receiver corps that lost three of its top four players. Junior Keenan Burton (365 yards, 2 TDs) is the best of the bunch.

Defensive tackle Myron Pryor emerged as a true freshman last season and may well be Kentucky's best player on that side of the ball. Incoming Micah Johnson is expected to push for starting time at middle linebacker with last year's starter Braxton Kelley recovering from (what else?) an injured knee. While Ben McGrath is also in the mix.

It didn't help the defense much when starting cornerback Bo Smith was dismissed in May for violating team rules.

The schedule sets up well for a potential rebound season. The Wildcats open with a serious degree of difficulty at Louisville, but five of the home games are highly winnable against Texas State, Ole Miss, Central Michigan, Vanderbilt and Louisiana-Monroe.

A road win at Mississippi State could put Kentucky in line for its first non-losing season since 2002.

STREET &amp; SMITH'S ALL-AMERICAN

106 2006 COLLEGE FOOTBALL

NASHVILLE, TENN.



## VANDERBILT COMMODORES

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 SEC



In many ways the 2005 season was a new day for the Vanderbilt Commodores.

They were led by a quarterback, Jay Cutler, who went on to become the 11th pick of the first round by the Denver Broncos. He capped a stellar Commodore career by leading Vandy to a 28-24 win over Tennessee, in Knoxville no less, its first victory over the Volunteers since 1982.

But in some ways it was the same old Vandy. The Commodores finished 5-6 after a 4-0 start and could point to a 17-15 loss to Middle Tennessee, a 49-42 overtime loss to Florida and a 48-43 loss to Kentucky as defeats that kept Vandy from a bowl game.

The Commodores will be farther away from bowl contention this year after losing Cutler and linebacker Moses Osemwogie, their leading tackler. But it won't be a complete rebuilding year, just one in which Vandy hopes not to lose too much of the momentum it built in 2005.

Vanderbilt coaches wouldn't name a starting quarterback coming out of the spring, but all signs point to Chris Nickson over MacKenzi Adams. Nickson is more of a dual threat, allowing Vanderbilt to employ more of an option attack than it did with Cutler.

Linebacker Darnell Martenus was moved temporarily to running back in the spring with tailback Jeff Jennings recovering from an ACL injury and Cassen Jackson-Garrison battling injuries. Martenus is expected to go back to defense unless Jennings can't recover in time.

The loss of Osemwogie at linebacker is substantial, but Vanderbilt has always had a deep linebacker corps. Kevin Joyce takes over at weakside 'backer, working alongside Jonathan Goff and Marcus Buggs.

A battle at free safety will carry over to the fall between Ben Koger and Ryan Hamilton. Wide receiver Earl Bennett and likely freshman receiver Alex Washington will return kicks.

REX BROWN/NFLPA/PAUL CONNELL/HELMET'S COURTESY/SPECIAL TO THE STAR



SEC

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AUBURN ALA

# AUBURN

## With Cox-sure QB and hot Irons in backfield, Tigers' offense will roar

Last December, after Georgia beat LSU in the SEC Championship Game, you could find plenty of people between Athens and Baton Rouge who would have been eager to argue that Auburn was actually the best team in the conference.

After all, Auburn rallied to win a 31-30 thriller at Georgia and, if not for missed field goal off the upright in overtime, it might have beaten LSU. Overall, it was Auburn that looked the most impressive as it finished the balance of its season 9-2.

Then came the Capital One Bowl, when Auburn was dominated by a Wisconsin team short on talent but eager to send Coach Barry Alvarez out a winner. That 24-10 mail-it-in defeat will probably cost Auburn more than a few votes in the preseason polls.

That's a shame, really, because this Auburn team bears some striking similarities to the 2004 version, the one that went 13-0 but started too low in the polls to crack the top two and get into the BCS National Championship Game.

This year, Auburn will have to make the climb again and hope to get a few beneficial upsets thrown its way, the breaks the Tigers didn't get two years ago when Southern California and Oklahoma marched lock step to their showdown in the Orange Bowl.

Still, there is plenty of reason for optimism, and coming out of spring practice Coach Tommy Tuberville wasn't trying to hide it.

"We've still got a lot of question marks and a lot of work to be done," Tuberville says. "But mentally and physically, we had a very good spring practice."

Tuberville can feel very good about several of the key components he has coming back on offense: hard-charging tailback Kenny Irons, quarterback Brandon Cox and Offensive Coordinator Al Borges.

The Auburn offense, in general, and Cox, in particular, flourished in their first year in Borges' system. Auburn led the SEC in total offense (409.8 ypg) and scoring offense (32.2 ppg) and was second in rushing offense (194.1 ypg).

After a nightmarish four-interception debut against Georgia Tech, a 23-14 Auburn defeat, Cox got better and better. He threw just four more interceptions the rest of the season, completing 177 of 306 passes for 2,324 yards and 15 touchdowns.

As a result, the battle in the spring wasn't to find a competitor for Cox, but to identify his backup. Blake Field edged out fellow sophomore Calvin Booker for that distinction.

### RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 Greg Smith, DL, 6-3, 315**  
Top junior-college prospect should shine.

**2 Ben Tate, RB, 5-11, 214**  
Is Maryland product next Tiger super back?

**3 Tim Hawthorne, WR, 6-3, 205**  
Big, physical receiver who has potential.

**4 Mike Blanc, DL, 6-4, 265**  
Top prospect from Auburn's Florida pipeline area.

**5 Neil Caudle, QB, 6-3, 204**  
Hopes to rebound from prep injuries.



PRESEASON RANK

# 1

### POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	1
DEFENSE	1
SPECIAL TEAMS	1
COACHING	1

2005 Record: 9-3 SEC

7-1

(lost to Wisconsin in the Capital One Bowl, 24-10)

### 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPONENT	RS RESULT
S. 2	Washington State	28-0
S. 9	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	28-0
S. 16	<b>LSU</b>	<b>17-20 (OT)</b>
S. 23	Buffalo	
S. 28	@SOUTH CAROLINA	48-7
O. 7	Arlansas	34-17
O. 14	Florida	
O. 21	Tulane	
O. 28	@MISSISSIPPI	27-3
N. 4	Arkansas State	
N. 11	Georgia	31-30
N. 18	@ALABAMA	28-18

### \* GAME TO WATCH \*

*The Iron Bowl is big, but the winner of this game has gone to the SEC Championship Game five of the last six years.*

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11  
Lettermen returning/lost: 54/15

#### OFFENSE

QB	12 Brandon Cox (6-2, 201, Jr.)
FB	45 Mike McLaughlin (6-1, 236, So.)
TB	23 Kenny Irons (5-11, 200, Sr.)
LT	77 King Dunlap (6-8, 313, Jr.)
LG	69 Ben Grubbs (6-3, 301, Sr.)
C	50 Joe Cope (6-0, 276, Sr.)
RG	76 Tim Duckworth (6-4, 310, Jr.)
RT	72 Leon Hart (6-4, 300, Jr.)
TE	87 Cole Bennett (6-4, 261, Sr.)
WR	86 Courtney Taylor (6-2, 202, Sr.)
WR	3 Robert Dunn (6-0, 177, So.)

#### DEFENSE

DE	48 Marques Gunn (6-4, 254, Sr.)
DT	97 Josh Thompson (6-0, 302, Jr.)
DT	92 Chris Browder (6-4, 260, Sr.)
DE	54 Quentin Groves (6-3, 250, Jr.)
LB	35 Will Herring (6-3, 220, Sr.)
LB	21 Karibi Dede (6-0, 216, Sr.)
LB	55 Merrill Johnson (6-0, 199, So.)
CB	4 David Irons (5-11, 188, Sr.)
CB	24 Jonathan Wilhite (5-11, 182, Jr.)
FS	9 Tristan Davis (5-10, 204, So.)
SS	33 Eric Brock (6-1, 213, Jr.)

#### SPECIALISTS

PK	37 John Vaughn (6-1, 197, Sr.)
P	30 Kody Blass (5-10, 177, Sr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

Official athletic Web site: www.auburntigers.com

# TIGERS

Stadium: Jordan-Hare Stadium (87,451)

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Tommy Tuberville, 8th year (60-27)

Career record: 85-47

Assistant coaches: Will Muschamp (def. coord./secondary), Al Borges (off. coord./QBs), Hugh Nail (off. line), Eddie Gran (RBs), Greg Knox (WRs/recruiting coord.), James Willis (LBS), Terry Price (def. ends), Don Dunn (def. tackles), Steve Ensminger (TEs)

Similarly, an Irons curtain has descended over the Auburn tailback position. Kenny Irons, that is. He bullded his way to 1,293 yards rushing on 256 carries, just over five yards per touch and 13 TDs.

The receiving corps isn't quite so settled. Auburn lost its top three receivers, with senior Courtney Taylor (22 catches, 278 yards) the most experienced set of hands returning. Sophomore Robert Dunn emerged as the top receiver at the other spot, but had just two catches for 29 yards in 2005. Senior Cole Bennett takes over for Cooper Wallace at tight end.

"Courtney Taylor—really being the lone starter coming back—his leadership stood out in trying to bring the young guys along," Tuberville says

The heart of the offensive line returns—All-SEC candidate Tim Duckworth and Ben Grubbs at the guards and Joe Cope at center—but Auburn went in search of tackles in the spring.

"We were looking for offensive linemen to revamp again after losing two to the NFL," Tuberville says. "King Dunlap had a very good spring [at left tackle]. He's continued to improve. Leon Hart and Jonathan Palmer, both of those guys were fighting it out for the starting position at right tackle."

Will Muschamp, a familiar name to Auburn football fans, takes over at defensive coordinator. He replaces David Gibbs, who was essentially on loan from the NFL for one year, going to Auburn from the Denver Broncos and leaving for a job with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Muschamp spent last year in the NFL, having followed former LSU Coach Nick Saban to the Miami Dolphins. He was defensive coordinator at LSU for three seasons under Saban and played his college ball at Georgia

Fans can expect Auburn to play a blitzing, aggressive style under Muschamp. But his direction won't be the only change on the Auburn defense this fall.

"We did some experimenting" in the spring, Tuberville says. "Probably the biggest change was moving Will Herring, who we've had starting the past couple of years at safety, to linebacker. That worked out very well. We're going to have some new guys at linebacker next year."

Merrill Johnson missed most of the spring with an injury, allowing Tray Blackmon to move up into the starting spot at weakside linebacker. Herring (team leader with 69 tackles in '05) will play strong-side, while Karibi Dede takes over in the middle.

Herring's departure was only part of the shakeup in the secondary. Tristan Davis took over

at free safety after playing running back last year David Irons didn't participate in spring drills because of academic concerns, but Kenny Irons' younger brother is expected back at left corner in the fall. Eric Brock is at strong safety while Jonathan Wilhite is at right corner.

"On defense we've got a lot of quickness," Tuberville says. "We've got a lot of work to do [in the fall]. We've got a lot of rough spots, but we made a lot of improvement [in the spring]."

Senior placekicker John Vaughn has fashioned one of the best kicking careers in Auburn history, having made 128 of 129 extra points (50-of-50 last year) and ranking in the top 10 in school annals with 30 field goals made. But it is the one-for-six field-goal performance at LSU—including the one that hit the upright in overtime—Vaughn will be remembered for and will try to atone this season. Meanwhile, senior punter Kody Bliss would be quite content to repeat the numbers that earned him first-team All-SEC honors last season: a conference-leading 44.9 yards per punt (45.8 yards a kick in SEC games).

Coming out of spring, Taylor looked as if he will be Auburn's kick returner, though Tuberville says he will keep his options open going into the fall.

One of the biggest reasons to favor Auburn in the SEC West is its schedule. The Tigers have to travel to South Carolina for a Thursday night ESPN game on Sept. 28 and finish the season with the Iron Bowl on Nov. 18 at Alabama. But the other road trips to Mississippi State and Ole Miss register as Auburn victories.

It is Week Three of the schedule (Sept. 16) that could decide the



**Kenny Irons, RB**  
SEC West. That's the date LSU visits Jordan-Hare Stadium in what has become one of the SEC's most pivotal series. The home team has won this game every year since 2000, and five of the last six seasons the LSU-Auburn winner has gone on to represent the West in the SEC Championship Game.

There is little reason to argue with history. Once again, it's Auburn's turn. The only question is whether the Tigers can make enough noise to be a player on the national championship scene.

## NEXT BIG THING

### COURTNEY TAYLOR, senior wide receiver

The season can't start soon enough for Courtney Taylor.

The Auburn wide receiver is hungry and ready to make a statement. Nagging injuries—primarily a debilitating high-ankle sprain—limited him throughout the 2005 season and held him to 22 catches for 278 yards and a touchdown.

Considering that the 6-2, 202-pound Taylor was a consensus preseason All-SEC player in 2005, the lack of production was very unsatisfying. The only thing Taylor can do to get that bitter taste out of his mouth is stay healthy and put together a memorable 2006 campaign.

Circumstances may be in his favor. The Tigers were blessed with a substantial receiving crew in 2005 that included Ben Obomanu, Devin Aromashodu and Anthony Mix. All have moved on and that means Taylor should be the main receiving threat for Auburn QB Brandon Cox.

More will be expected from Taylor than simply increasing his production. He is expected to

become one of the leaders on offense and help show a young receiver like Prechae Rodriguez (13 catches for 240 yards in 2005) the finer points of the game.

Taylor comes into the year hoping to use the 2004 season as his jumping-off point because of his inability to shake last year's ankle problem. Taylor caught 43 passes for 737 yards and six touchdowns two years ago and showed a propensity to win jump-ball battles. Taylor is an outstanding leaper who can outmuscle and outfight most defensive backs in the air.

A renewed emphasis on the running game by Auburn Coach Tommy Tuberville may also help Taylor this season. Tuberville did not think his team was "hard-nosed" enough on offense a year ago and he wants to establish a running game that will take some pressure off the defense. If running back Kenny Irons (1,293 yards in 2005) can do that, it will open things up for big plays in the passing game—and a banner year for Taylor.

—Steve Silverman

## 2005 TEAM STATS

SCORING	386	186
Points Per Game	32.2	15.5
FIRST DOWNS	257	193
Rushing	124	81
Passing	122	97
Penalty	11	15
RUSHING YARDAGE	2529	1395
Yards gained rushing	2646	1782
Yards lost rushing	317	387
Rushing Attempts	481	396
Average Per Rush	4.8	3.5
Average Per Game	194.1	116.2
TDs Rushing	28	11
PASSING YARDAGE	2509	2388
All-Comp-Int	339-195-8	360-202-8
Average Per Pass	7.6	6.6
Average Per Catch	13.3	11.8
Average Per Game	215.8	199.0
TDs Passing	19	8
TOTAL OFFENSE	4918	3783
Total Plays	820	756
Average Per Play	6.0	5.0
Average Per Game	409.8	315.2
KICK RETURNS, #-YDS	26-711	37-777
PUNT RETURNS, #-YDS	32-243	20-203
INT RETURNS, #-YDS	0-0	0-0
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	27.3	21.0
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.5	10.1
INT RETURN AVERAGE	8.4	11.0
FUMBLES-LOST	17-10	22-7
PENALTIES-YARDS	67-538	78-567
Average Per Game	44.8	47.2
PUNTS-YARDS	47-2090	67-2699
Average Per Punt	44.5	40.3
Net punt average	37.6	35.8
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME	30:48	29:12
3RD-DOWN CONV	75/158	55/69
3rd-Down Pct	46%	33%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/13	6/14
4th-Down Pct	69%	43%
SACKS-BY-YARDS	39-236	21-175
MISC YARDS	23	10
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	50	20
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	12-20	15-23
PAT-ATTEMPTS	50-50	19-19
ATTENDANCE	589,124	317,602
Games/Avg Per Game	7/84,161	4/79,400
Neutral Site Games	1/57,221	

## 2005 TEAM BY QUARTER

Auburn	83	127	82	94	0	386
Opponent	47	37	27	72	3	186

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

### OFFENSE

#### PASSING

Player	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
Brandon Cox	11	132.59	306-177-8	57.8	2324	15	211.3
Blake Field	5	150.99	31-17-0	54.8	237	3	47.4

#### RUSHING

Player	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Kenny Irons	12	256	1293	5.1	13	107.8
Brad Lester	8	52	339	6.5	5	42.4
Tre Smith	12	56	285	5.1	3	23.8

#### RECEIVING

Player	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Ben Obomanu	12	33	357	10.8	5	29.8
D. Aromashodu	12	26	494	19.0	4	41.2
Anthony Mix	12	23	288	12.5	2	24.0

### DEFENSE

#### TACKLES

Player	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Will Herring	12	34	35	69
Travis Williams	11	37	31	68
Antarnous Williams	12	31	20	51

#### BLOCKS

Player	GP	No.	Yds.
Stanley McClover	11	8.0	55
Wayne Dickens	12	6.5	37
Quentin Groves	12	6.0	45

#### INTERCEPTIONS

Player	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Steve Gandy	1	29	29.0	0
Zach Gilbert	1	26	26.0	0
Eric Brock	1	11	11.0	0



BATON ROUGE

## LSU



## Despite last season's impressive 11-2 campaign, Tigers still have Miles to go with fans in the Bayou

**M**aybe Les Miles knew something everyone else didn't all along.

When Miles went to LSU in January 2005 to replace the highly successful and highly respected Nick Saban, the general response from the Purple-and-Gold Nation could be charitably described as lukewarm.

People didn't dislike Miles, but they weren't fired up about him either. Their worst fears seemed to be confirmed in Game Two when LSU blew a 21-0 point halftime lead and lost 30-27 in overtime to a Tennessee team that would finish 5-6.

Funny thing about Miles and his Tigers, though: Just when everyone seemed ready to write them off, they came back stronger than ever.

The Tigers had to open on the road at Arizona State, pulling out a 35-31 victory after Hurricane Katrina forced the LSU campus to be converted into a M\*A\*S\*H unit. The Tennessee game was moved to a Monday night (Sept. 26) in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita.

As Louisiana picked up the pieces, so did the Tigers. With no margin for error in the SEC West race, they reeled off nine straight wins—LSU's longest in-season winning streak since starting 9-0 in 1973—to reach the SEC Championship Game.

There the Tigers were taken apart by Georgia 34-14, seeming to prove Miles' detractors right again. But LSU returned to Atlanta in late December and was even more formidable in crushing then-ninth-ranked Miami 40-3 in the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl, arguably the Tigers' most impressive bowl win ever. Miles' first LSU team finished 11-2 (the only Tiger team to win more was the 13-1 BCS national champion of 2003) and ranked No. 5 in the coaches' poll.

### RATING THE RECRUTS

- 2 Charles Scott, RB, 5-11, 223  
*Top in-state runner fits Tiger mold*
- 3 Charles Deas, DL, 6-4, 315  
*After a year off, wants to show he can still play*
- 4 Jai Eugene, DB, 6-0, 175  
*Touted in-state cover cornerback*
- 5 Kelland Williams, RB, 5-11, 223  
*Year of prep school helped touted back*



PRESEASON RANK:

#2

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★

2005 Record: 11-2 SEC. 7-1

(beat Miami in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, 40-3)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

S.2	Louisiana-Lafayette	
S.9	Arizona	
S.16	@AUBURN	20-17 (OT)
S.23	Tulane	
S.30	Mississippi State	37-7
O.7	@FLORIDA	21-17
O.14	Kentucky	
O.21	Fresno State	
MIDWEST		
N.31	Alabama	16-13 (OT)
N.18	Mississippi	40-7
N.24	@ARKANSAS*	19-17

*The Tigers will be trying to avenge last year's super-meltdown, a 30-27 OT loss to the Vols.*

*\*at Little Rock, Ark*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 39/21

## OFFENSE

QB	4	JaMarcus Russell (6-6, 252, Jr.)
FB	18	Jacob Hester (6-0, 232, So.)
TB	22	Alley Broussard (6-0, 237, Jr.)
LT	70	Ciron Black (6-4, 315, Fr.)
LG	73	Will Arnold (6-4, 322, So.)
C	63	Brett Helms (6-2, 290, So.)
RG	75	Brian Johnson (6-4, 297, Jr.)
RT	77	Peter Dyakowski (6-5, 294, Sr.)
TE	89	Keith Zinger (6-4, 259, Sr.)
WR	3	Craig Davis (6-2, 199, Sr.)
WR	80	Dwayne Bowe (6-3, 217, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	93	Tyson Jackson (6-5, 281, So.)
DT	72	Glenn Dorsey (6-2, 284, Jr.)
III	91	Charles Alexander (6-3, 285, So.)
DE	94	Chase Pittman (6-4, 265, Sr.)
LB	48	Danny Beckwith (6-1, 229, So.)
LB	35	Luke Sanders (6-4, 229, So.)
LB	7	Ali Highsmith (6-1, 226, So.)
KE	37	Jonathan Zenon (6-0, 179, Jr.)
CB	21	Chevis Jackson (6-0, 189, So.)
FS	30	LaRon Landry (6-2, 204, Sr.)
SS	31	Jessie Daniels (5-11, 203, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

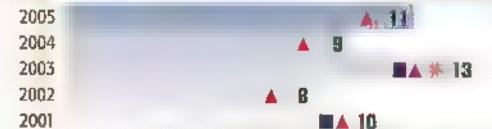
PK	41	Chris Jackson (5-11, 174, Sr.)
P	41	Chris Jackson (5-11, 174, Sr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

## TIGERS

Stadium: Tiger Stadium (91,600)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



## ■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL \* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Les Miles, 2nd year (11-2)

Career record: 38-23

Assistant coaches: Bo Pelini (def. coord.), Jimbo Fisher (off. coord./QBs), Bradley Peveto (special teams coord./LBs), Stacy Searels (off. line), Karl Dunbar (asst. head coach/def. line), Josh Henson (TEs/receiving coord.), Doug Mallory (DBs), Todd Monken (WRs/passing game coord.), Larry Porter (RBs)

Given the hurricane-ravaged circumstances, and a fair shake, little more could have been asked of Miles and his Tigers in 2005.

But now it's 2006, and barring another hurricane (or two) barreling Louisiana's way, Tiger fans' insatiable thirst for more gridiron glory will bring more heat this fall.

Miles, as cool as the autumn afternoons he used to play football on at Michigan, says bring it on.

"We feel like this can be the kind of team that we're used to having at LSU," Miles says.

A brief statement, but one layered with meaning, considering that LSU has won 51 games the last five years—the most wins in school history in that window of time. And considering that the Tigers lost seven players to the NFL Draft and had five more sign as free agents. And that injuries from last season leave big question marks about several key players.

If this LSU team is going to be the "kind of team" the Tigers are used to having, this season would have to be, to use one of Miles' favorite words, a "strong" one.

There is no position on the LSU team stronger—or more full of question marks—than quarterback.

JaMarcus Russell led LSU to a 10-1 regular season mark before separating his left (non-throwing) shoulder against Georgia. His recuperation from that, and right wrist surgery resulting from a midseason injury, forced Russell to miss the Peach Bowl and spring practice.

Into his void stepped Matt Flynn. He was brilliant against Miami, earning MVP honors after completing 13 of 22 passes for 196 yards and two touchdowns. Flynn's mobility—something Russell doesn't possess—allowed him to pick up 39 more yards on five carries.

Then there's Ryan Perrilloux, a redshirt freshman who was once committed to Texas, but who like Flynn tried to state his case in the spring before Russell returns in the fall.

Apparently, Miles was more than convinced. While he gave a vote of confidence to Russell, he also sounded like he was trying to send a message to the quarterback who threw for 2,443 yards and 15 TDs last year.

Work hard to come back ... or else.

"Any time there's a competitive position on the football team," Miles says, "the likelihood is that it will be played better than it's been played. That's what Matt proved in the bowl game and how he



played in the spring. Ryan Perrilloux has ability, just see the competition benefiting us.

"If JaMarcus is the best quarterback and comes back healthy and ready to go, we'll get the best play from our quarterback."

"I think you can look forward to a little more competitive situation. You look at the guy who won 10 games a year ago first. But we feel very confident we have other qualified quarterbacks at the position."

The running back position is also loaded with talent—and questions. Alley Broussard returns after missing the fall and spring with a knee injury, but his recovery was slow. Justin Vincent, the team's top-returning rusher with 488 yards and five TDs on 121 carries, is also coming off a knee injury. There is a big influx of new talent led by Kelland Williams from Lafayette, but it's unproven.

The same can be said for LSU's offensive line. The Tigers return only two starters from last year, left guard Will Arnold and right tackle Brian Johnson, who moves to right guard. Ciron Black will likely take over from four-year starter Andrew Whitworth at left tackle, while Brett Helms is expected to start at center and Peter Dyakowski takes over at right tackle.

The receiver corps is deep and dependable, led by Dwayne Bowe (41 catches, 710 yards, 9 TDs), Craig Davis (35, 559, 2) and Early Doucet (26, 389, 5). Tight end Keith Zinger is a capable blocker and pass catcher.

Only two starters—defensive end Chase Pittman (6-4, 265) and strongside linebacker Ali Highsmith (6-1, 226)—return to the front seven of an LSU defense that improved as the season went on and finished third in the nation in points and yards allowed. Most of the new starters saw plenty of action last year, though, beginning with end Tyson Jackson and tackles Glenn Dorsey and Charles Alexander. Luke Sanders takes over at middle linebacker, while Darry Beckwith lines up on the weakside.

## NEXT BIG THING

### RICKY JEAN-FRANCOIS, freshman defensive end

With three starters gone from one of the best defensive lines last year, LSU needs all the help it can get up front. Enter redshirt freshman Ricky Jean-Francois—who's already contributing to the Tigers' athletic department, although in a different sport.

Jean-Francois was a two-sport star out of Carol City High in Miami. During his senior prep season, the 6-3, 266-pound defensive end had 93 tackles, 15 sacks, three interceptions and four forced fumbles. The previous year, Jean-Francois recorded 10 sacks and eight forced fumbles.

He also set the state record for sacks in a single game (6.5), helping him to be rated as the No. 1 defensive line prospect from Florida. Jean-Francois turned down numerous scholarships (including Auburn, Florida, N.C. State and Tennessee) to sign with the Tigers.

Football wasn't the only thing Jean-Francois excelled at in high school, as he also was a

The secondary is experienced and strong up the middle, led by strong safety Jessie Daniels and free safety LaRon Landry, who passed on the NFL Draft to be a four-year starter and possible top 10 pick in 2007. Chevis Jackson is back at one corner, while Jonathan Zenon takes over at the other spot.

Chris Jackson, a third baseman who missed the spring baseball season with a football elbow injury from making a tackle at Vanderbilt, should be healthy enough to punt and kick.

The schedule is like an exotic new dance step, rhythmic and difficult to master. Two home games, road trip. Two home games, road trip, all the way through the season. The home schedule is dotted with interesting dates against Arizona, Fresno State and Alabama. The road schedule is nothing but landmines, starting with a Sept. 16 game at Auburn that could go a long way to determining the SEC West champion (the winner of this game has played in the SEC Championship Game five of the last six years). LSU then goes to Florida on Oct. 7, Tennessee on Nov. 4 and Arkansas the day after Thanksgiving.

It would seem like a Mission: Impossible for any team, though it is worth remembering that LSU is 11-2 on the road (excluding bowl games) the last three seasons.

That 11-2 mark just so happens to be what LSU's record was last year. If the Tigers could win that many games again, it would be an impressive feat, and one that could lay the foundation for another national championship chase in 2007.



two-time 5A state champion in both shot put and discus. Jean-Francois was able to continue throwing shot put and discus for LSU, and was an All-SEC second-team selection last season.

Jean-Francois redshirted last year, but is now involved in a battle for a starting position on the line with several other underclassmen. The Tigers will be quite inexperienced on the line, with defensive tackles Claude Wroten and Kyle Williams and defensive end Melvin Oliver all lost to graduation. Those three were the top three sack leaders for the Tigers last year.

Although he is versatile enough to play either end or tackle, Jean-Francois is currently getting reps at left end. With his size and strength and given his previous accolades, there could soon be a new sack leader for the Tigers.

—Matt McKenzie

### 2005 TEAM STATS

	2005	2004
SCORING	383	185
Points Per Game	29.5	14.2
FIRST DOWNS	255	194
Rushing	118	63
Passing	119	101
Penalty	18	29
RUSHING YARDAGE	1951	1190
Yards gained rushing	2353	1649
Yards lost rushing	402	459
Rushing Attempts	509	402
Average Per Rush	3.8	3.0
Average Per Game	150.1	91.5
TDs Rushing	21	8
PASSING YARDAGE	2912	2279
Att-Comp-Int	216-10	431-204-10
Average Per Pass	8.1	5.3
Average Per Catch	13.5	11.2
Average Per Game	224.0	175.3
TDs Passing	22	12
TOTAL OFFENSE	4863	3469
Total Plays	869	833
Average Per Play	5.6	4.2
Average Per Game	374.1	266.8
KICK RETURNS, #+YDS	24-409	43-760
PUNT RETRNS. #+YDS	29-410	14-80
INT RETURNS, #+YDS	10-124	10-95
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	17.0	17.7
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	14.1	5.7
INT RETR.N AVERAGE	12.4	9.5
FUMBLES-LOST	20-13	21-4
PENALTIES-YARDS	108-907	86-610
Average Per Game	69.8	46.9
PUNTS-YARDS	63-2575	90-3605
Average Per Punt	40.9	40.1
Net punt average	39.0	35.1
TIME OF POSSESS./GAME	31:32	28:28
3RD-DOWN CONV.	66/189	55/195
3rd-Down Pct	39%	28%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	8/11	7/17
4th-Down Pct	73%	41%
SACKS BY YARDS	38-284	26-263
MISC YARDS	22	22
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	48	21
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	14-24	13-25
PAT-ATTEMPTS	45-46	18-18
ATTENDANCE	549,480	289,424
Games/Avg Per Game	6/91580	5/57885
Neutral Site Games		2/69668

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
LSU	73	99	81	118	12
Opponent	30	40	45	61	9

### 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

#### OFFENSE

##### PASSING

JaMarcus Russell	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	136.56	311	189-9	60.5	2443	15	203.6

##### Matt Flynn

Matt Flynn	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
9	180.18	48-27-1	56.2	457	7	50.8	

##### RUSHING

Joseph Addai	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
13	187	911	4.9	9	70.1	
Justin Vincent	13	121	488	4.0	5	37.5

##### Shyrone Carey

Shyrone Carey	10	59	234	4.0	2	23.4
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##### RECEIVING

Dwayne Bowe	GP	All	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
T2	41	710	17.3	9	59.2	

##### Craig Davis

Craig Davis	11	35	559	16.0	2	50.8
Skyler Green	13	32	268	8.4	0	20.6

##### DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Sal.	Ast.	Total
Cameron Vaughn	13	46	37	83
Ali Highsmith	13	36	39	75
Melvin Oliver	13	38	31	69

##### SACKS

Melvin Oliver	GP	No.	Yds.
13	9.0	53	
Claude Wroten	13	6.0	27
Kyle Williams	13	4.5	34

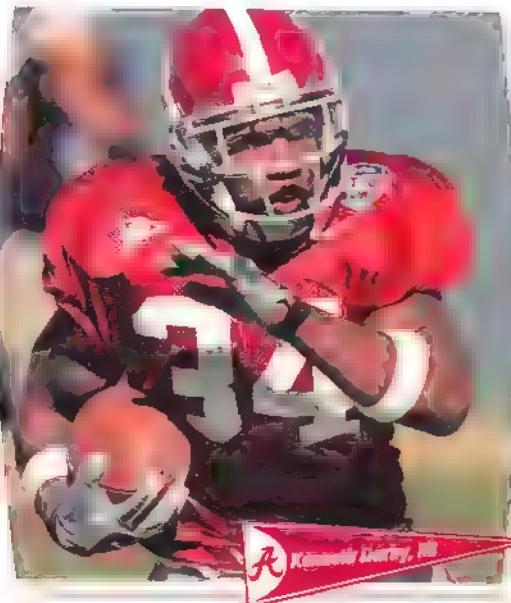
##### INTERCEPTIONS

LaRon Landry	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
3	42	14.0	0	

##### Jonathan Zenon

Jonathan Zenon	2	47	23.5	0
Craig Steltz	1	22	22.0	0

## ALABAMA



## Croyle's departure leaves a big hole, so Tide may turn even more to run

**A** little consistency. That's all they're looking for at Alabama—at least for now.

A string of solid, winning seasons that measure for measure can put the messy Mike DuBose/Dennis Franchione/Mike Price years farther and farther behind the Crimson Tide program.

Mike Shula finally got the healing process rolling in 2005 with a 10-2 record. Not a championship season, mind you. Not one to rank among the all time best at Alabama. But a season to feel good about, a turning point for a program beset by NCAA probation upheaval that only this season is able to offer its full complement of 85 scholarships.

Despite the uncertain status of senior linebacker Juwan Simpson, who was arrested for possession of a stolen gun in mid-May, the main question for the Tide in the spring was how well John Parker Wilson would fit as a replacement for graduated QB and NFL draft pick Brodie Croyle.

Wilson, who completed just seven of 11 passes last season, is comparable to Croyle in arm strength. And he has escape velocity out of the pocket that Croyle didn't possess.

"He just needs to go play," Shula says of Wilson. "He's going to make some mistakes because of his experience, but he will make plays."

Who will be Wilson's backup is an equally compelling story. The odds are on senior Marc Guillou, but his chronically bad back and a knee

### RATING THE RECRUITS

1	Andre Smith, OL, 6-5, 315 <i>In-state recruit is top incoming blocker in the South.</i>
2	David Ross, OL, 6-4, 295 <i>Gives Crimson Tide two top O-Line anchors.</i>
3	Jake Jones, DB, 6-0, 185 <i>Two-way athlete follows his father to 'Bama.</i>
4	Nikita Stover, WR, 6-2, 200 <i>Junior-college product has big potential.</i>
5	Terry Grant, RB, 5-10, 188 <i>Prolific Mississippi runner could contribute.</i>



PRESEASON RANK:

#3

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★
COACHING	★★

2005 Record:

10-2      6-2

(beat Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl, 13-10)

SEC:

10-2      6-2

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Hawaii	W 31-17
S.9	Vanderbilt	W 31-10
S.16	Louisiana-Monroe	W 31-10
S.23	@Arkansas	W 31-17
S.30	@Florida	L 31-3
O.7	Duke	W 31-10
O.14	Mississippi	W 31-10
O.21	@Tennessee	W 6-3
O.28	Florida International	W 31-10
N.4	Mississippi State	W 31-10
N.11	@LSU	W 13-16 (OT)
N.18	Auburn	W 31-17

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

*Winning this game could mean the difference between contending in the SEC West or being an also-ran.*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14

Lettermen returning/lost: 44/25

## OFFENSE

QB	14	John Parker Wilson (6-2, 207, So.)
TB	34	Kenneth Darby (5-11, 205, Sr.)
FB	33	LeRon McClain (6-1, 256, Sr.)
LT	72	Chris Capps (6-6, 286, Jr.)
LG	76	Marlon Davis (6-4, 315, So.)
C	59	Antoine Caldwell (6-3, 296, So.)
RG	61	B.J. Stabler (6-4, 295, So.)
RT	58	Kyle Tatum (6-8, 290, Sr.)
TE	83	Travis McCall (6-2, 250, So.)
WR	81	Keith Brown (6-2, 192, Jr.)
WR	22	D.J. Hall (6-3, 190, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

LE	92	Wallace Gilberry (6-3, 254, Jr.)
LT	99	Jeremy Clark (6-3, 305, Sr.)
RT	96	Dominic Lee (6-2, 303, Sr.)
RE	93	Bobby Greenwood (6-6, 245, So.)
SLB	55	Terrence Jones (6-1, 220, Sr.)
MLB	56	Matt Collins (6-1, 241, Jr.)
WLB	42	Juwan Simpson (6-3, 222, Sr.)
LCB	1	Ramzee Robinson (5-10, 190, Jr.)
RCB	2	Simeon Castile (6-1, 188, Jr.)
FS	3	Jeffrey Dukes (6-1, 193, Sr.)
SS	20	Marcus Carter (6-1, 190, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	26	Jamie Christensen (6-0, 178, Jr.)
P	11	P.J. Fitzgerald (6-0, 190, Fr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

## CRIMSON TIDE

Stadium: Bryant-Denny Stadium (83,818)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE   ▲ BOWL   \* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Mike Shula, 4th year (20-17)

Career record: 20-17

Assistant coaches: Joe Kines (def. coord./LBs/asst. head coach), Dave Rader (off. coord./QBs), Chris Ball (secondary), Bob Connally (off. line), Charlie Harbison (WRs), David Turner (def. ends), Dave Unger (special teams/TEs), Sparky Woods (RBs), Buddy Wyatt (def. line)

injury suffered near the end of spring practice have complicated things. True freshman Greg McElroy could earn the understudy role if he has a good August

Easing Wilson's burden will be a bulging backfield full of tailbacks, led by senior workhorse Kenneth Darby (1,242 rushing yards last year). Jimmy Johns and Glen Coffee are vying to be his backup, while Roy Upchurch returns from an injury that sidelined him in 2005. Prep-school newcomer Mike Ford could be the best of the bunch.

D.J. Hall and Keith Brown return to man both wide receiver spots. But Tyrone Prothro will likely not return, still recovering from the severe broken leg injury he suffered last season against Florida.

Still, despite the loss of Croyle and the likely absence of Prothro, the sometimes-stagnant Alabama offense may actually improve in 2005. That will be next to impossible for an Alabama defense that led the SEC in almost every major category last year.

Only four starters return: defensive end Wallace Gilberry, tackle Jeremy Clark, weakside linebacker Simpson and cornerback Ramzee Robinson. But the rest of the replacements are veterans, such as junior Simeon Castile. He sat out the Cotton Bowl and spring practice for disciplinary reasons, but should return in August to claim the corner spot opposite Robinson. Junior Matt Collins and senior Terrence Jones are set to step in to replace middle linebacker Freddie Roach and strongside 'backer DeMeco Ryans, respectively, though freshman Prince Hall is expected to give Collins a fight.

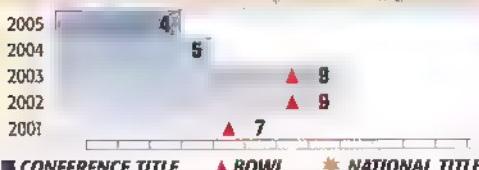
Placekicker Jamie Christensen (16-of-25 field goals, 25-of-26 PATs) returns, while Bama will be breaking in a new punter, freshman P.J. Fitzgerald, to replace Jeremy Schatz, who averaged only 38.3 yards per kick last year.

Alabama should have no trouble getting off to a 3-0 start at home in newly expanded Bryant-Denny Stadium against Hawaii, Vanderbilt and Louisiana-Monroe. Then the fun begins with back-to-back road trips to Arkansas and Florida. Visits to Tennessee and LSU follow later before the Tide hosts Auburn for the Iron Bowl.

"We have our hands full this year," Shula says. "We probably have our toughest road schedule at Arkansas, Florida, LSU and Tennessee. Those are probably the four loudest stadiums in the country."

How Alabama handles those road games will likely determine its success this season.

# ARKANSAS

**5-YEAR WINS TREND**


## Razorbacks keep prized prospect Mustain home, but will QB controversy be too much of a distraction?

After another winter of football discontent in Arkansas, welcome to the new season of mixed emotions.

There is reason for optimism in Fayetteville with 20 starters returning. On the other hand, there is reason for concern, given that the 2005 Razorbacks returned 18 starters and the team went 4-7.

There is reason for excitement, considering how well Casey Dick played at quarterback toward the end of last season and that freshman phenom Mitch Mustain is in camp this fall. But there is also reason for concern that a quarterback controversy arising from pressure to play Mustain could be a divisive and distracting force for a team trying to regain its winning form.

The quarterback situation took center-stage in the offseason, brought into sharp focus by the fact that Arkansas kept Mustain, a national recruit from nearby Springdale, close to home.

Dick and Robert Johnson both have experience as starters, Dick having ended the season as the No. 1. But neither has game experience running the offense installed by Arkansas' new offensive coordinator, Gus Malzahn, who just happens to have been Mustain's coach at Springdale High. Johnson's problems are compounded by the fact that he is coming back from offseason hernia surgery, his second.

Nutt made it clear in the spring that the quarterback derby will be thrown wide-open this fall.

"Casey probably didn't have the spring we thought he would have," Nutt says. "Robert had his surgery after having a real good spring."

"When Mitch comes in, we'll give him a look, see what happens. The best one will play."

Whoever that is will have the benefit of being surrounded by an offense that lost just one starter—Jonathan Luigs replaces Kyle Roper at center—and includes a talented cast of skill players. That group is led by tailback Darren McFadden, an exciting, physical runner who was a sensation last year rushing for 1,113 yards and 11 touchdowns as a freshman. Also back are starting wide receivers Marcus Monk (35 catches, 476 yards, 7 TDs) and Cedric Washington (27 catches, 365 yards).

Nine starters return on a defense that could stand to make some improvements after ranking 10th in SEC scoring defense and ninth in total yards allowed. There were some moves in the spring designed to maximize players talents, such as shifting Desmond Sims from defensive end to middle linebacker. He'll play along small but hard-hitting weakside linebacker Sam Olajubutu, who led the team and ranked third in the SEC last year with



PRESEASON RANK:

#4

**POWER RATINGS**

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★

2005 Record:

4-7

SEC:

2-6

**2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	05 RESULT
9/2	Southern California	17-20
9/9	Utah State	
9/16	@VANDERBILT	24-28
9/23	Alabama	15-24
9/30	@AUBURN	17-34
10/14	Southeast Missouri State	
10/21	Mississippi	28-17
10/28	Louisiana-Monroe*	44-15
11/4	@SOUTH CAROLINA	10-14
11/11	Tennessee	
11/18	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	44-10
11/24	LSU*	17-19

**GAME TO WATCH**

No one will expect the Razorbacks to win, but it will be interesting to see how much closer they can come to USC than 70-17.

\*At Little Rock, Ark.

**PROJECTED STARTERS**

Starters returning: 20  
Lettermen returning/lost: 53/13

**OFFENSE**

QB	11	Casey Dick (6-2, 211, So.)
TB	5	Darren McFadden (6-2, 210, So.)
FB	22	Peyton Hillis (6-2, 233, Jr.)
LT	66	Tony Lough (6-5, 304, Sr.)
LG	74	Stephen Parker (6-4, 310, Sr.)
C	63	Jonathan Luigs (6-4, 305, So.)
RG	61	Robert Felton (6-4, 319, Jr.)
RT	69	Zac Tubbs (6-6, 335, Sr.)
TE	89	Wes Murphy (6-3, 265, Sr.)
SE	85	Marcus Monk (6-6, 227, Jr.)
FL	10	Cedric Washington (6-0, 200, Jr.)

LE	92	Jamaal Anderson (6-6, 268, Jr.)
LT	55	Marcus Harrison (6-3, 315, Jr.)
RT	99	Keith Jackson (6-0, 300, Sr.)
RE	97	Antwan Robinson (6-3, 250, So.)
SLB	44	Freddie Fairchild (6-2, 215, So.)

MLB	23	Desmond Sims (6-3, 226, Sr.)
WLB	24	Sam Olajubutu (5-9, 229, Sr.)
LC	2	Chris Houston (5-11, 178, Jr.)
RC	4	Matterrial Richardson (6-0, 193, Jr.)
FS	8	Michael Grant (5-11, 185, Jr.)
SS	6	Randy Kelly (6-0, 194, Sr.)

**SPECIALISTS**

PK	50	Jeremy Davis (5-9, 175, So.)
P	14	Jacob Skinner (6-3, 212, Sr.)

# RAZORBACKS

Stadium: Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium (72,000)



110 tackles (including 67 solos and 14.5 for losses). Michael Grant also moved from cornerback to free safety after the player Arkansas was counting on in that position, junior-college transfer John West, struggled in the spring to grasp the defense.

Jeremy Davis takes over from Chris Balseiro at placekicker, while Jacob Skinner (41.8-yard average) is again the punter.

"We had a very good spring," Nutt says. "Overall we felt like we improved."

For Nutt's sake, that had better be true. The Razorbacks were expected to struggle after returning just six starters in 2004, but last year's team, while competitive at times, was a disappointment.

While the schedule does open with USC (which routed Arkansas 70-17 last year), games with Utah State, Vanderbilt, Southeast Missouri State, Ole Miss, Louisiana-Monroe and Mississippi State should give Arkansas a chance to build a solid winning foundation. Two other tough opponents—Alabama and LSU—have the tough task of traveling to Arkansas to play.

If the Razorbacks post a third straight losing season, enough heat will be on Nutt that Arkansas may be forced to make a coaching change.

**Head coach: Houston Nutt, 9th year (57-40)**

**Career record: 93-62**

**Assistant coaches:** Bobby Allen (CBs), Reggie Herring (def. coord./LBs), Tracy Rocker (def. line), James Shibest (TEs/special teams), Mike Markson (off. line/running game coord.), Danny Nutt (RBs), Louis Campbell (secondary), Alex Wood (QBs/passing game coord.), Gus Malzahn (off. coord./WRs)

**RATING THE RECRUITS**

**1 Mitch Mustain, QB, 6-3, 205.**  
*Will Parade Player of the Year be the Hogs' savior?*

**2 Damian Williams, WR, 6-1, 188.**

*Mustain's prep teammate could be special.*

**3 Freddie Barnett, DL, 6-2, 300.**

*Junior-college product has big upside.*

**4 Van Stunton, LB, 6-4, 238.**

*Prep defensive stalwart has potential.*

**5 Andrew Norman, WR, 6-2, 180.**

*Like Williams, likes passes from Mustain.*



## OLE MISS REBELS

PRESEASON RANK:

**#5**

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	3
2004	4
2003	▲ 10
2002	7
2001	7

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Ed Orgeron,  
2nd year (3-8)  
**Career record:** 3-8  
**Stadium:** Vaught-Hemingway Stadium  
**Capacity:** 60,580  
**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.olemisssports.com](http://www.olemisssports.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
5.2	Memphis	10-6
5.9	@M SSOLR	
5.16	@KENTUCKY	13-7
5.23	Wake Forest	
5.30	Georgia	
6.7	Vanderbilt	23-31
6.14	@ALABAMA	10-13
6.21	@ARKANSAS	17-28
6.28	Auburn	3-27
7.4	Northwestern State	
7.11	@LSU	7-40
7.18	Mississippi State	14-35

## GAME TO WATCH

If the Rebels have hopes of reaching a bowl, they'll probably have to win at least once on the road. This is their best chance.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12  
Lettermen returning/lost: 37/25

## OFFENSE

QB	7	Brent Schaeffer (6-2, 195, Jr.)
TB	6	Jason Cook (6-0, 230, So.)
FB	44	B. Green-Ellis (5-11, 211, Jr.)
LT	74	Michael Oher (6-5, 330, So.)
LG	73	Andrew Wicker (6-5, 290, Sr.)
C	60	Thomas Eckers (6-2, 290, Jr.)
RG	79	Maurice Miller (6-3, 320, So.)
RT	50	Darryl Harris (6-3, 285, Jr.)
TE	15	Robert Lane (6-3, 225, Jr.)
SE	2	Burnell Wallace (6-0, 175, So.)
FL	21	Marshay Green (5-10, 170, Fr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	98	Pena Jerry (6-2, 290, So.)
DT	97	Hayward Howard (6-4, 300, So.)
NT	90	Brandon Jenkins (6-5, 280, Jr.)
DE	95	Chris Bowers (6-2, 231, So.)
WLB	10	Quentin Taylor (6-0, 235, So.)
MLB	49	Patrick Willis (6-2, 230, Sr.)
SLB	26	Garry Pack (6-1, 220, Jr.)
LC	28	Nate Banks (5-11, 180, Jr.)
RC	3	Trumaine McBride (5-11, 180, Sr.)
FS	20	Charles Clark (6-0, 195, Sr.)
SS	3	Jamarca Sanford (5-10, 200, So.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	17	Will Moseley (6-2, 200, Sr.)
P	36	Rob Park (6-0, 185, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

2005 Record: 3-8 overall, 1-7 SEC



PRESEASON RANK:

**#6**

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	3
2004	3
2003	2
2002	3
2001	3

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Sylvester Croom,

3rd year (6-16)

**Career record:** 6-16

**Stadium:** Davis Wade Stadium

**Capacity:** 55,082

**Official athletic Web site:**

[www.msstateathletics.com](http://www.msstateathletics.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A.31	South Carolina	
5.9	Auburn	0-28
5.16	Tulane	21-14
5.23	@UAB	
5.30	@LSU	7-37
6.7	West Virginia	
6.14	Jacksonville State	
6.21	@GEORGIA	10-23
6.28	Kentucky	7-13
7.4	@ALABAMA	0-17
7.11	Arkansas	10-44
7.18	@MISSISSIPPI	35-14

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Bulldogs will get a chance to play kingmaker when the highly ranked Mountaineers come calling to Starkville.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19

Lettermen returning/lost: 49/18

## OFFENSE

QB	7	Michael Henig (6-1, 179, So.)
HB	27	Brandon Thornton (5-10, 188, So.)
FB	41	Bryson Davis (6-2, 263, Sr.)
LT	79	Calvin Wilson (6-5, 356, So.)
LG	53	Anthony Strauder (6-3, 306, So.)
C	76	Royce Blackledge (6-3, 293, Jr.)
RG	55	Brian Anderson (6-6, 307, Sr.)
RT	78	Michael Gates (6-4, 302, So.)
TE	88	Eric Butler (6-3, 250, Jr.)
WR	4	Tony Burks (6-4, 213, Jr.)
WR	14	Omarr Conner (6-1, 218, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

LE	54	Titus Brown (6-3, 240, Jr.)
DT	98	Deluan Robinson (6-4, 296, Sr.)
NT	94	Andrew Powell (6-0, 298, Sr.)
RE	58	Michael Heard (6-2, 268, Sr.)
SLB	5	Gabe O'Neal (6-0, 223, Jr.)
MLB	2	Quinton Culberson (6-0, 239, Sr.)
WLB	22	Jamar Chaney (6-2, 229, So.)
LC	3	Derek Pegues (5-10, 188, So.)
RC	23	David Heard (6-0, 190, Sr.)
FS	34	Jeremie Johnson (5-11, 216, Sr.)
SS	1	Keith Fitzhugh (5-10, 213, So.)

PK	46	Keith Andrews (6-1, 199, Sr.)
P	43	Blake McAdams (5-11, 187, So.)

## MISSISSIPPI STATE BULLDOGS

2005 Record: 3-8 overall, 1-7 SEC



Change can be slow to come by in the SEC, especially if you're a down-and-out program like Mississippi State trying to climb back into a more respectable neighborhood.

The Bulldogs have won just 14 games over the last five years and six under third-year Coach Sylvester Croom. Bowl trips, even winning seasons, are beginning to become distant replays in the minds of victory-starved State fans.

There are reasons to hope that the Bulldogs can improve this season—if even just by small, incremental steps. State returns 19 starters, including nine on a defense that played respectably well last season (sixth in the SEC in passing defense, seventh in rushing defense). Middle linebacker Quinton Culberson, the team's top returning tackler with 78 stops last year, is back along with free safety Jeremie Johnson.

Melvin Smith, defensive backs coach under Jackie Sherrill, returns to direct Johnson and the rest of the secondary, while Shane Beamer (son of Virginia Tech's Frank Beamer) moves over to coach running backs after Freddie Kitchens left for the Dallas Cowboys.

Eight players who started last year return for an offense that ranked 113th in Division I-A in scoring and total yardage and 109th in passing.

The quarterback who did most of the passing last year, Omarr Conner, has been shifted to wideout, where he will be catching passes from new quarterback Michael Henig, a sophomore. But most of the passes will probably be going to Tony Burks, a 6-4 junior-college transfer who nailed down a starting spot in the spring. Replacing Jerious Norwood and his 1,136 yards rushing will fall to sophomore Brandon Thornton, who picked up 225 yards and a touchdown in 2005.

Placekickers Keith Andrews and Adam Carlson came out of the spring in a fight for the top of the depth chart. Blake McAdams returns to punt after kicking 69 times last year.

## RATING THE PLAYERS

Fastest receiver	John Broussard, San Jose State
Best hands	Davone Bess, WR, Hawaii
Best passing QB	Colt Brennan, Hawaii
Best running QB	Jared Zabransky, Boise State

Most elusive RB	Yonus Davis, San Jose State
Best instincts	Korey Hall, LB, Boise State
Best athlete	John Broussard, WR, San Jose State
Best under pressure	Jeff Rowe, QB, Nevada

Top NFL prospect	Samson Satele, OL, Hawaii
Top impact freshman	Chastin West, WR, Fresno State
Hardest hitter	Korey Hall, LB, Boise State
Biggest underachiever	John Broussard, WR, San Jose State



Predicted order of finish

5

## THINGS TO WATCH

How will Boise State fare without Dan Hawkins, who is now coach at Colorado? With their longtime offensive coordinator, Chris Petersen, now at the helm, there's no reason to think the Broncos can't win their fifth WAC title in a row.

**Can Dennis Erickson get it done at Idaho?** It won't happen overnight. Although Erickson has enjoyed success at the college level, the Vandals won just two games last season and play a schedule that includes Michigan State, Washington State and Oregon State.

**Can a WAC team finish the season ranked in the Top 25 after being shut out last season?** Yes, assuming the conference gets quality wins against BCS league opponents. They'll have plenty of chances with games against teams such as Oregon, Alabama, Nebraska and Michigan State.

**Can Hawaii quarterback Colt Brennan duplicate his statistics from last season in which he led the nation in total offense (4,455 yards)?** With a pair of 1,000-yard receivers returning and a year under his belt in the run-and-shoot offense, Brennan could surpass those numbers.

**Can Nevada dethrone four-time WAC champion Boise State?** After sharing the title with Boise State last season, Nevada returns enough key players to do so.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

**IDAHO:** The Vandals landed two three-star running backs and a pair of talented prep quarterbacks.

**2. BOISE STATE:** Junior-college LB Garrett Tugge and QB Mike Coughlin are two highly rated prospects.

**3. SAN JOSE STATE:** Signed more three-star recruits (five) than any team in the WAC, led by RB Dominique Hunsucker, who had Pac-10 offers.

**4. NEVADA:** Only WAC team to land a four-star recruit in offensive lineman John Romero Jr. Five of Nevada's 15 signings are offensive linemen.

**5. FRESNO STATE:** Bulldogs loaded up on high school receivers (five), none nationally ranked.

**6. LOUISIANA TECH:** Led WAC with 26 recruits, including a conference-high six juco transfers.

**7. HAWAII:** Added depth with five receivers for Coach June Jones' run-and-shoot offense.

**8. UTAH STATE:** With just one two-star recruit, ranked next to last in Division I-A by *scout.com*.

**9. NEW MEXICO STATE:** With 15 recruits, ranked last among 119 Division I-A schools by *scout.com*.

## Broncos seek to keep momentum going without Hawkins on the sidelines anymore

By MARK GOMEZ  
*San Jose Mercury News*

Boise State's run of dominance in the WAC ended last season, as the Broncos shared the conference championship with Nevada. Boise State's string of consecutive conference victories also ended at 31 games with a 27-7 loss to Fresno State.

Throw in a 27-21 loss to Boston College in the MPC Computers Bowl, played in the Broncos' home stadium, and last season was a disappointment by Boise State standards. The loss to Boston College ended Boise State's streak of 31 consecutive home victories.

The Broncos are now in a transition period. With former Coach Dan Hawkins leaving for Colorado (despite signing a five-year contract extension in December 2004), Boise State has handed the reins to Chris Petersen, who was the Broncos' offensive coordinator

Even with a new coaching staff, the Broncos remain the class of the conference. With 20 returning starters, including quarterback Jared Zabransky and linebacker Korey Hall, the Broncos are favored to win their fifth consecutive title.

But Fresno State and Nevada aren't far behind. The Wolf Pack, who shared in the WAC title last season, their first conference championship since 1997, have

one of the conference's top returning quarterbacks in senior Jeff Rowe. Nevada excelled last season under a new offensive scheme, and with one year of experience under his belt, Rowe could make the Pack even better.

Fresno State should also be in the mix. Led by Coach Pat Hill, who is entering his 10th season at the helm and is the longest-tenured coach in the WAC, the Bulldogs return with most of their starting lineup intact. The one considerable exception is at quarterback, where Fresno State is still looking to replace Paul Pinegar, who ranked 18th in the nation in passing efficiency (147.6).

After welcoming three new coaches last season, the WAC has two more first-year mentors roaming the sideline. Joining Petersen is Dennis Erickson, who is starting his second stint at Idaho after spending one year away from football. Erickson is making his sixth stop at the college level after coaching stints in the NFL with San Francisco and Seattle.

The WAC now boasts three of the 15 winningest active coaches in the NCAA in Nevada's Chris Ault (177 wins, No. 5), San Jose State's Dick Tomey (145 wins, No. 11) and Erickson (144 wins, No. 13).



P. 116 UP



P. 117 UP



P. 118 UP



P. 119 UP



P. 119 UP



P. 120 STOCK DOWN



P. 120 STOCK DOWN



P. 121 STOCK DOWN

# BOISE STATE



## Bounce-back season from Zabransky is critical to Broncos' BCS hopes

**A**fter spending five seasons as Boise State's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, Chris Petersen now faces the task of leading the Broncos to a BCS game.

Petersen replaced Coach Dan Hawkins, who left Boise State in December to accept a five-year contract worth \$850,000 annually with Colorado. During Hawkins' five-year run, Boise State posted the fourth-most wins in the nation (53), trailing only Texas (56), Oklahoma (55) and USC (54).

There doesn't figure to be much drop-off with Petersen, who in 2002 and 2004 was a finalist for the Broyles Award, which honors the nation's top assistant coach. Under Petersen, Boise State has averaged 41.5 points per game since 2000, tops in the nation.

A handful of factors should help Petersen make a smooth transition and allow Boise State to contend for its fifth consecutive WAC title. The Broncos return a conference-high 20 starters, including quarterback Jared Zabransky and linebacker Korey Hall, play their two most challenging games at home (Oregon State and Fresno State) and don't open the season against a BCS power such as Georgia. Boise State lost to the Bulldogs 48-13 in last season's opener. Petersen will make his debut with a home game against Sacramento State, a Division I-AA program.

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- 1 **Garrett Tuggle, LB, 6-1, 225**  
Big junior-college season helped prospect
- 2 **Nate Potter, OL, 6-6, 265**  
Local prep product is a four-sport athlete
- 3 **Keith McGowen, DB, 5-10, 165**  
Californian may see playing time this year.
- 4 **Derrell Acrey, LB, 6-2, 235**  
West Coast prospect has potential.
- 5 **Michael Coughlin, QB, 6-5, 215**  
Another talented California import.



PRESEASON RANK:

# 1

## POWER RATINGS

	OFFENSE	DEFENSE	SPECIAL TEAMS	COACHING
2005	1	1	1	1
2004	2	2	2	2
2003	3	3	3	3
2002	4	4	4	4
2001	5	5	5	5

2005 Record	WAC
<b>9-4</b>	<b>7-1</b>
(lost to Boston College in the MPC Computers Bowl, 27-21)	

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A. 31	Sacramento State	
S. 7	Oregon State	27-30
S. 16 @ WYOMING		
S. 23 Hawaii		44-41
S. 30 @ UTAH		
O. 7 Louisiana Tech		30-13
O. 15 @ NEW MEXICO STATE		56-6
O. 21 @ IDAHO		70-35
<b>N. 1 Fresno State</b>	<b>7-27</b>	
N. 11 @ SAN JOSE STATE		38-21
N. 18 Utah State		45-21
N. 25 @ NEVADA		49-14

## GAME TO WATCH:

The Bulldogs ended Boise State's string of 31 consecutive conference wins last season with a 27-27 victory in Fresno.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20  
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/8

## OFFENSE

QB	5	Jared Zabransky (6-2, 203, Sr.)
RB	41	Ian Johnson (5-11, 193, So.)
FB	34	Brad Lau (5-11, 255, Sr.)
LT	79	Ryan Clady (6-6, 312, So.)
LG	66	Tad Miller (6-4, 303, Jr.)
C	54	Jeff Cavender (6-2, 287, Jr.)
RG	67	Andrew Woodruff (6-3, 324, So.)
RT	71	Ryan Keating (6-4, 317, Sr.)
TE	91	Derek Schouman (6-2, 211, Sr.)
WR	1	Jerard Rabb (6-2, 198, Sr.)
WR	11	Drisan James (5-11, 184, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	97	Nick Schleketway (6-4, 261, Jr.)
DT	57	Andrew Browning (6-0, 278, Sr.)
DT	58	Tim Volk (6-2, 260, Sr.)
DE	96	Mike G. Williams (6-3, 244, Sr.)
SLB	31	Col Brooks (6-1, 208, Sr.)
MLB	25	Korey Hall (6-1, 228, Sr.)
WLB	43	David Shields (6-2, 217, So.)
LCB	16	Orlando Scandrick (5-11, 174, So.)
RCB	37	Austin Smith (5-9, 170, Jr.)
S	2	Gerald Alexander (6-0, 197, Sr.)
S	20	Marty Tadman (5-11, 176, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	47	A. Montgomery (6-1, 215, Sr.)
P	42	Kyle Stringer (5-8, 190, Sr.)

# BRONCOS

Stadium: Bronco Stadium (30,000)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Chris Petersen, 1st year

Assistant coaches: Jeff Choate (RBs/special teams), Bryan Harsin (off. coord./QBs), Scott Huff (TEs), Sean Kugler (asst. head coach/off. line), Pete Kwiatkowski (def. line), Brent Pease (WRs), Vilim Tuivai (LBs), Justin Wilcox (def. coord.), Marcel Yates (secondary)

Petersen also faces some challenges. Boise State's coaching staff is one of the youngest in the nation and includes a pair of 29-year-old coordinators, Bryan Harsin (offense) and Justin Wilcox (defense). Harsin spent the previous five seasons as a Boise State assistant and is just one of two offensive coordinators in the country under 30. Wilcox spent the last three years as the linebackers coach at Cal and is one of three defensive coordinators in the nation under 30.

Still, there is plenty of reason for optimism. The Broncos return nine starters on both offense and defense from last year's team that won its fourth consecutive WAC title (sharing it with Nevada).

Their season may hinge on Zabransky, whose sporadic play in 2005 resulted in a poor touch-down-to-interception ratio of 18/16. He threw four interceptions and no touchdowns in the season-opening loss to Georgia, a game that immediately threw a wrench into the Broncos' BCS hopes. Against Idaho, Zabransky threw two interceptions and no touchdowns on four-for-15 passing.

But the third-year signal-caller is a proven winner who has rushed for 24 touchdowns in the last two seasons. He guided the Broncos to a 36.1-point average last season, ninth best in the nation.

And Zabransky will have plenty of experienced targets to throw to. Senior receiver Jerard Rabb caught a team-high 38 passes for 572 yards and five touchdowns last season. Senior receiver Drisan James could be poised for a breakout year after finishing second on the team in receptions (34) and yards (518). Tight end Derek Schouman had 17 catches for 177 yards and two touchdowns.

Sophomore Ian Johnson was part of Boise State's tailback by committee and the team's second-leading rusher with 663 yards and four touchdowns. Junior Jon Helmandollar, who sat out 2005 for personal reasons, is second on the depth chart and led the Broncos with 14 rushing touchdowns as a freshman.

Defensively, with Hall roaming at middle linebacker and a front line led by Andrew Browning (6-0, 278 pounds), the Broncos could improve upon last year's numbers (369.7 yards, 24.4 points per game allowed).

The Broncos remain almost unbeatable at home, where they have won 31 consecutive regular-season games on the blue turf at Bronco Stadium. In last year's MPC Computers Bowl played at Bronco Stadium, Boise State lost to Boston College 27-21.

## NEVADA

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



## Pack will Rowe the dice on 'pistol' shooting down WAC foes again

**Q**uarterback Jeff Rowe enjoyed a breakthrough season in 2005, and so did the Wolf Pack, winning a share of their first conference championship since 1997.

Rowe, a senior, is arguably the conference's top returning quarterback and could post even better numbers in his second season running the Wolf Pack's new offense. Coach Chris Ault, who is entering his 22nd year at Nevada (in two stints), installed a new offensive and defensive system last spring. He scrapped his wide-open, one-back attack in favor of "the pistol," an innovative hybrid of the shotgun formation in which the quarterback lines up three yards behind center to allow for a running back to line up behind the quarterback.

The results: Nevada ranked 14th in the nation in total offense (449.3 yards per game) and 15th in scoring offense (34.2 points per game). The Wolf Pack reached those numbers after a slow start, but finished the season by winning eight of their final nine games, including a 49-48 overtime victory against Central Florida in the Hawaii Bowl.

It won't take long to determine if Nevada's success is short-lived: the Wolf Pack's first four opponents competed in bowl games last season. Nevada opens with a conference game at Fresno State, followed by a trip to Arizona State and home games against Colorado State and Northwestern.

Rowe, a 6-foot-5, 225-pound senior, emerged last season as one of the top quarterbacks in the WAC and was consistent throughout for the Wolf Pack. He passed for at least 200 yards in nine of 12 games, including a 22-for-32, 253-yard effort in Nevada's win over Central Florida. With Rowe at the helm, Nevada led the nation in time of possession, averaging 33:12 per game.

Following spring practices, Ault said of Rowe: "He has had a great spring. He's gotten better and he has a great feel for the offense now. He'll have a good year."

Among the seven returning offensive starters are three of Nevada's top four receivers. Leading the way is senior Caleb Spencer, a first-team All-WAC selection who led the team in catches (67), yards (889) and touchdown receptions (7). Senior receiver Kyle Sammons and tight end Anthony Pudewell both had 27 catches and two touchdowns last season.

Although the Wolf Pack lost B.J. Mitchell, the WAC's leading rusher last season, Robert Hubbard appears ready for a starting role. As a junior, Hubbard rushed for 741 yards and 11 touchdowns. Sophomore Luke Lippincott enjoyed a solid spring camp and is expected to make an impact.



PRESEASON RANK:

#2

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record: 9-4 WAC: 7-1

(beat Central Florida in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl, 49-48 in OT)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
9/1	@FRESNO STATE	38-35
9/9	@ARIZONA STATE	
9/16	Colorado State	21-42
9/22	Northwestern	
9/30	@UNLV	22-14
10/7	@HAWAII	38-28
10/21	San Jose State	30-23
10/28	New Mexico State	48-24
11/4	@IDAHO	62-14
11/11	Utah State	30-24
11/18	@LOUISIANA TECH	37-27
11/25	Boise State	14-49

## GAME TO WATCH

*The Wolf Pack open with a crucial conference game against a Bulldog team that could contend for the WAC title.*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 38/15

## OFFENSE

QB	3	Jeff Rowe (6-5, 225, r-Sr.)
RB	19	Robert Hubbard (5-11, 195, r-Sr.)
WG	60	Greg Hall (6-3, 285, r-So.)
WT	61	Dominic Green (6-2, 290, r-So.)
C	76	Jimmy Wadhams (6-3, 290, r-Sr.)
ST	75	Charles Manu (6-3, 300, Jr.)
SG	70	Barrett Reznick (6-1, 285, r-Sr.)
TE	83	Anthony Pudewell (6-3, 240, r-Sr.)
WR	87	Caleb Spencer (5-11, 180, Sr.)
WR	5	Kyle Sammons (6-0, 190, Sr.)
WR	89	Mike McCoy (6-0, 190, r-So.)

## DEFENSE

DE	93	Charles Wilson (6-4, 270, r-Sr.)
NT	57	Matt Hines (6-1, 285, r-Jr.)
DE	91	J.J. Milan (6-5, 265, r-Sr.)

BAN	44	Jeremy Engstrom (6-1, 247, r-Jr.)
SLB	56	Ezra Butler (6-2, 255, r-Jr.)

MLB	33	Jason DeMars (6-2, 255, Sr.)
WLB	30	Joshua Mauga (6-2, 245, So.)

CB	23	Joe Garcia (6-0, 180, Sr.)
CB	37	DeAngelo Wilson (5-10, 185, r-So.)

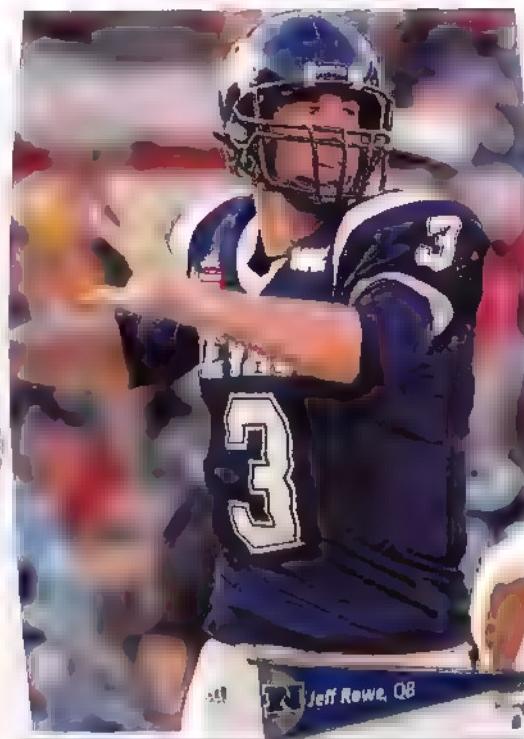
SS	24	Mike Samples (6-0, 195, r-Fr.)
FS	25	Sergio Villasenor (6-1, 206, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	99	Brett Jaekle (6-2, 225, r-So.)
P	40	Thomas Barcia (5-7, 160, So.)

## WOLF PACK

Stadium: Mackay Stadium (31,900)



Defensively, the Wolf Pack return seven starters, including three linebackers, two linemen and half the starting secondary. Senior cornerback Joe Garcia was the team's third-leading tackler (72) and a first-team All-WAC selection. Sophomore linebacker Ezra Butler recorded 75 tackles and led the team with 15.5 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks.

But the biggest key for Nevada is the return of senior defensive end J.J. Milan, who redshirted last season after getting injured in fall camp. At 6-5 and 265 pounds, Milan's presence should shore up a defense that allowed 410.6 yards and 31.9 points per game. As a junior, Milan led the team in sacks (4.5) and was second in tackles for loss (10.5).

Nevada seems to have all the parts needed to challenge Boise State and Fresno State for the WAC title. The second half of Nevada's schedule, which includes a season-ending game against visiting Boise State, will determine the Wolf Pack's fate.

Head coach: Chris Ault, 22nd year (173-73-1)

Career record: 173-73-1

Assistant coaches: Scott Baumgartner (WRs), Tim DeRuyter (co-def. coord./safeties), Chris Klenakis (off. coord./off. line), Marty Long (def. line), Jim Mastri (RBs), Kim McCloud (CBs), Cameron Norcross (TEs/off. line), Barry Sacks (co-def. coord./OLBs), Ken Wilson (ass. head coach/ILBs)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

1 John Romero, DL, 6-4, 295

Arizona product was a touted prep.

Adam Liranza, DB, 6-4, 210

Californian could also play wide receiver.

DeVon Walker, DB, 6-0, 175

Junior-college prospect is solid player who'll help immediately.

Colin Kaepernick, QB, 6-5, 190

Could be signal-caller of future.

Sam Stewart, DE, 6-3, 275

Another junior-college recruit.

# FRESNO STATE



## **WAC** Fearless Fresno will take on all comers again as Hill continues to raise Bulldogs' profile

**G**ive Fresno State Coach Pat Hill credit. When he says his team will play anyone, anywhere, anytime, he means it.

After backing up his words in 2005 with a midseason game at Southern Cal, the Bulldogs will break up WAC play this year against LSU. Their trip to Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge is sandwiched between conference games against up-and-coming Hawaii and Boise State, contests that could determine whether Fresno makes a run at the WAC championship.

Last season, the Bulldogs were poised to capture their first WAC title since 1999 after a win over Boise State on Nov. 10 improved their record to 8-1. They followed that with a thrilling 50-42 loss to USC in what was easily one of the most entertaining games of the season.

### RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** **Lonyae Miller, RB, 5-11, 2100**  
*In-state talent with potential.*

**2** **Anthony Harding, RB, 6-0, 215**  
*Seeks early playing time.*

**3** **Taylor Smith, DE, 6-3, 230**  
*He could also play at linebacker.*

**4** **Damion Owens, DB, 5-11, 185**  
*A versatile skill-position player.*

**5** **Nico Herron, LB, 6-3, 240**  
*Solid prospect with a good future.*



PRESEASON RANK.

#3

**POWER RATINGS**

OFFENSE	3	3	3
DEFENSE	3	3	3
SPECIAL TEAMS	3	3	3
COACHING	3	3	3

2005 Record: **8-5** WAC: **6-2**

(last to Tulsa in the Liberty Bowl, 31-24)

**2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
5. 1	Nevada	55-38
5. 9	Oregon	34-37
5. 16	@WASHINGTON	
5. 30	Colorado State	
6. 7	@UTAH STATE	53-21
6. 14	Hawaii	27-13
6. 21	@LSU	
6. 28	@BOISE STATE	27-7
7. 11	New Mexico State	37-7
7. 18	Idaho	40-10
7. 24	@LOUISIANA TECH	28-40
7. 29	@SAN JOSE STATE	45-7

**GAME TO WATCH**

*Will the Bulldogs have found a QB in time for the season opener against the defending WAC champion Wolf Pack?*

**PROJECTED STARTERS**

Starters returning 19  
Lettermen returning/lost 49/16

**OFFENSE**

QB	7	Tom Brandstater (6-5, 220, So.)
TB	32	Dwayne Wright (6-1, 220, Jr.)
FB	26	Roshon Vercher (5-11, 245, Sr.)
LT	72	Bobby Lepori (6-5, 285, So.)
LG	77	Ryan Wendell (6-2, 275, Jr.)
C	59	Kyle Young (6-5, 330, Sr.)
RG	62	Cole Popovich (6-2, 285, So.)
RT	79	Chris Denman (6-6, 305, Sr.)
TE	85	Bear Pascoe (6-5, 260, So.)
WR	1	Paul Williams (6-2, 210, Sr.)
WR	84	Joe Fernandez (5-10, 175, Sr.)

**DEFENSE**

DE	92	Marlon Brisco (6-3, 260, Sr.)
DT	98	Louis Leonard (6-4, 330, Sr.)
NT	97	Jason Shirey (6-5, 330, Jr.)
DE	11	Tyler Clutts (6-2, 245, Jr.)
OLB	31	Marcus Riley (6-0, 220, Jr.)
MLB	51	Dwayne Andrews (6-0, 240, Sr.)
OLB	10	Alan Goodwin (6-2, 220, Sr.)
CB	17	Marcus McCauley (6-1, 205, Jr.)
CB	30	Elgin Simmons (5-9, 180, Sr.)
SS	15	Josh Sherley (6-0, 205, Sr.)
FS	4	Vincent Mays (5-11, 205, Sr.)

**SPECIALISTS**

PK	39	Clint Stiser (6-1, 200, So.)
P	37	Mike Langula (6-0, 190, Jr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

# BULLDOGS

Stadium: Bulldog Stadium (41,031)

**5-YEAR WINS TREND****CONFERENCE TITLE****BOWL****NATIONAL TITLE**

Head coach: Pat Hill, 10th year (72-43)

Career record: 72-43

Assistant coaches: John Baxter (associate head coach/special teams/WRs), Dan Brown (def. coord.), Derek Frazier (off. line), Steve Hagen (off. coord./QBs), Kerry Locklin, (def. line), Tom Mason (LBs), Tim Skipper (RBs), Tim Simons (TEs), Randy Stewart (secondary)

But the Bulldogs fizzled from there, enduring what was arguably the biggest season-ending letdown in 2005. The loss to Southern Cal was the start of a four-game losing streak, including a rare home loss to Louisiana Tech and a 31-24 defeat at the hands of Tulsa in the Liberty Bowl.

How Fresno State rebounds will determine whether they keep pace with Nevada and Boise State in the WAC race.

Although the Bulldogs lost veteran quarterback Paul Pinegar and had not found his replacement at the conclusion of spring practice, they still return 19 starters, including four-fifths of their offensive line and all three linebackers.

Replacing Pinegar, however, is Fresno State's top goal entering fall camp and filling his shoes won't be easy. Pinegar was outstanding as a senior, throwing for 3,335 yards and 30 touchdowns with 15 interceptions for a passer rating of 147.6 (18th nationally).

Sophomores Tom Brandstater and Sean Norton and freshman Ryan Colburn are vying for the quarterback spot. Of the three, only the 6-5, 220-pound Brandstater has college experience, and it's limited: he has completed six of 13 passes for 49 yards with one touchdown and one interception.

Whoever wins the starting quarterback job should be well protected and have plenty of experienced targets. The Bulldogs return their top two receivers, Paul Williams and Joe Fernandez, who combined to make 89 catches for 1,290 yards and 15 touchdowns last year.

Center Kyle Young, a 6-foot-5, 330-pound senior who has started 39 consecutive games, anchors the offensive line.

Linebacker Dwayne Andrews was a second-team All-WAC selection (71 tackles in 2005) and was one of 42 defensive players named to the Lott Trophy Watch List, an award handed out to the nation's top defensive player.

Despite losing two senior running backs, the ground game shouldn't miss a beat with Dwayne Wright, who could be poised to lead the conference in rushing. Wright hasn't played since suffering a season-ending knee injury in the second game of the 2004 season. After transferring to Fresno State in 2003, he took over the starting job midway through the season and finished with 1,038 yards and three touchdowns.

# HAWAII RAINBOW WARRIORS

2005 Record: 5-7 overall, 4-4 WAC

Quarterback Colt Brennan arrived in Hawaii last summer looking for a fresh start following legal problems at Colorado that led to his dismissal from the Buffaloes' football team in 2004.

Brennan finished the season as the nation's leader in passing yards (4,301) and touchdowns (35) and cemented his status as Timmy Chang's successor.

With one season under his belt, Brennan appears poised to continue the tradition of Hawaii quarterbacks who put up eye-catching statistics while operating Coach June Jones' run-and-shoot offense.

Brennan's troubles stemmed from an off-field incident in early 2004 when he was arrested after entering the dorm room of a female student while intoxicated. He was found guilty of first-degree trespassing and second-degree burglary and sentenced to seven days in jail and four years' probation.

Upon leaving Colorado, Brennan spent the 2004 season in the California juco ranks at Saddleback CC. After walking on at Hawaii, he shared time with freshman Tyler Graunke in the first two games last season before assuming the starting job.

Not only did Brennan lead the nation in total offense, but he was one of the most accurate passers, completing 68 percent of his throws (350-of-515).

Brennan shouldn't have much of a problem duplicating those numbers, considering the Warriors return all four starting receivers, including Davone Bess and Ryan Grice-Mullen, who last year became the first pair of Hawaii receivers to reach 1,000 yards in receptions in the same season.

As a freshman, Bess led the team in catches (89) and touchdowns (14) and was second in receiving yards (1,124). Grice-Mullen, also a sophomore, made 85 catches for a team-high 1,228 yards with 12 touchdowns. Seniors Ross Dickerson (51 catches, 725 yards) and Chad Mock (42, 502) return to round out the starting receiving corps.

The Warriors also return three-fifths of their starting offensive line, led by senior Samson Satele (6-3, 311), a first-team All-WAC selection, and Tala Esera (6-4, 295).

The defense, under second-year coordinator Jerry Glanville, returns six starters and most of the line. The glaring weakness is in the secondary.



PRESEASON RANK:

#4

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	7
2004	▲ 8
2003	▲ 9
2002	▲ 10
2001	8

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: June Jones, 8th year  
(53-37)

Career record: 53-37

Stadium: Aloha Stadium

Capacity: 50,000

Official athletic Web site:  
[www.uhathletics.hawaii.edu](http://www.uhathletics.hawaii.edu)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@ALABAMA	
S. 16	UNLV	
S. 23	@BOISE STATE	41-44
S. 30	Eastern Illinois	
O. 7	Nevada	28-38
O. 14	@FRESNO STATE	13-27
O. 21	@NEW MEXICO	49-28
O. 28	Idaho	24-0
N. 4	@UTAH STATE	50-23
N. 11	Louisiana Tech	14-46
N. 18	San Jose State	45-38
N. 25	Purdue	
D. 2	Oregon State	

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

*The Warriors are notorious for struggling on the road, which is where they open WAC play against the defending champ.*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 6/16

## OFFENSE

QB	15	Colt Brennan (6-3, 190, Jr.)
RB	4	Nale Ilaia (5-9, 248, Sr.)
LT	70	Tala Esera (6-4, 295, Sr.)
LG	65	Hercules Satele (6-2, 302, Jr.)
C	64	Samson Satele (6-3, 311, Sr.)
RG	55	John Estes (6-1, 275, Fr.)
RT	72	Dane Uperesa (6-5, 331, Sr.)
WR	88	Chad Mock (5-11, 171, Sr.)
WR	7	Davone Bess (5-10, 187, So.)
WR	1	R. Grice-Mullen (5-10, 174, So.)
WR	82	Ross Dickerson (5-10, 185, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	98	Melina Purcell (6-5, 266, Sr.)
NT	67	Michael Lafaele (6-0, 306, Jr.)
DE	91	I. Alama-Francis (6-5, 250, Sr.)
LB	58	John Fonoti (6-3, 233, So.)
LB	44	Adam Leonard (6-0, 237, So.)
LB	41	S. Elimiamu (6-0, 224, So.)
LB	33	C.J. Allen-Jones (6-2, 219, So.)
CB	34	A.J. Martinez (5-10, 177, Jr.)
CB	19	C.J. Hawthorne (5-11, 165, Jr.)
FS	42	Leonard Peters (6-1, 199, Sr.)
SS	43	Brad Kalikimoku (5-10, 204, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	26	Nolan Miranda (5-8, 163, Sr.)
P	25	Kurt Milne (6-0, 196, Jr.)

# LOUISIANA TECH BULLDOGS

2005 Record: 7-4 overall, 6-2 WAC



PRESEASON RANK:

#5

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	7
2004	B
2003	5
2002	4
2001	7

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Jack Bicknell, 8th year  
(40-42)

Career record: 40-42

Stadium: Joe Aillet Stadium

Capacity: 30,600

Official athletic Web site:  
[www.latechsports.com](http://www.latechsports.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@NEBRASKA	
S. 16	Nicholls State	
S. 23	@TEXAS A&M	
S. 30	@CLEMSON	
O. 7	@BOISE STATE	13-30
O. 14	Male	41-30
O. 21	Utah State	27-17
O. 28	@SAN JOSE STATE	31-14
N. 4	@NORTH TEXAS	40-14
N. 11	@HAWAII	46-14
N. 18	Nevada	27-37
N. 24	Fresno State	40-28
D. 2	@NEW MEX.CO	34-14

## GAME TO WATCH

*After a brutal opening schedule, the Bulldogs get a reprieve at home with a WAC game against the lower-tier Vandals.*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/24

## OFFENSE

QB	10	Zac Champion (6-1, 215, Jr.)
RB	28	Freddie Franklin (6-0, 178, Jr.)
TE	89	Anthony James (6-6, 265, Sr.)
LT	73	Tyler Miller (6-7, 309, Jr.)
LG	66	David Accardo (6-5, 316, So.)
LG	51	Jacob Peter (6-3, 261, Sr.)
RG	78	Marcus Lindsey (6-7, 386, Sr.)
RT	63	Ryan Considine (6-5, 297, Jr.)
WR	7	J. Holland (6-0, 189, Sr.)
WR	82	Eric Newman (6-0, 187, Sr.)
WR	81	Josh Wheeler (6-4, 200, So.)

## DEFENSE

DE	91	Sammie Collins (6-3, 249, Sr.)
NT	92	Josh Muse (6-3, 310, Jr.)
DT	94	Wes Day (6-4, 249, So.)
LB	37	Quin Harris (6-3, 221, So.)
LB	58	Brannon Jackson (6-2, 263, Jr.)
LB	44	Anthony Crosby (6-0, 227, Jr.)
LB	27	Marquis Spurton (6-0, 187, Sr.)
CB	20	Sandy Ray Collins (5-10, 187, Sr.)
CB	26	Anthony Moss (5-10, 183, Sr.)
ROV	45	Deon Young (5-11, 191, Fr.)
FS	4	Dez Abrams (6-0, 189, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	31	Danny Horwedel (6-2, 200, Jr.)
P	15	Chris Keagle (5-11, 225, So.)



SAN JOSE CALIF

# SAN JOSE STATE SPARTANS

2005 Record: 3-8 overall, 2-6 WAC

PRESEASON RANK.

#6

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	1
2004	2
2003	3
2002	8
2001	3

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Dick Tomey, 2nd year (3-8)

Career record: 161-118-7

Stadium: Spartan Stadium

Capacity: 31,218

Official athletic Web site: www.sjsuspartans.com

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	05 RESULT
S. 2	@WASH. MONTON	
S. 9	Stanford	
S. 23	Cal Poly	
S. 30	San Diego State	21-52
O. 14	Utah State	17-24
O. 21	@NEVADA	23-30
O. 28	Louisiana Tech	14-31
N. 4	@NEW MEXICO ST	27-10
N. 11	Boise State	21-38
N. 18	@HAWAII	38-45
N. 25	@IDAHO	26-18
D 2	Fresno State	7-45

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Spartans begin a stretch of four consecutive home games against their Bay area rival.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12  
Lettermen returning/lost: 40/18

## OFFENSE

QB	17	Adam Tafralis (6-1, 223, Jr.)
TB	34	Yonus Davis (5-7, 180, Jr.)
FB	42	James T. Callier (6-0, 221, Jr.)
LT	76	Matt Cantu (6-3, 290, Sr.)
LG	62	Marcel Burrough (6-6, 322, Sr.)
C	68	Justin Payinger (6-1, 290, So.)
RG	63	John Booker (6-4, 300, Jr.)
RT	66	Chris Danzer (6-6, 295, So.)
TE	49	Jason Cain (6-5, 235, So.)
WR	3	James Jones (6-1, 196, Sr.)
WR	81	John Broussard (6-1, 165, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	93	Justin Cole (6-3, 210, r-Fr.)
DT	92	F. McCutcheon (6-2, 295, Sr.)
DT	90	Josh Pulu (6-2, 283, r-Jr.)
DE	53	Jarron Gilbert (6-5, 240, So.)
LB	51	Chris Reese (5-9, 195, So.)
LB	35	Matt Castelo (5-10, 200, Jr.)
LB	31	D. Chatman (6-0, 190, So.)
CB	32	Ellis Jones (5-11, 190, So.)
CB	29	Christopher Owens (5-0, 170, So.)
SS	8	Christopher Vedder (6-0, 205, Sr.)
FS	22	Jason Evans (6-1, 185, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	10	Jared Strubek (5-9, 160, So.)
P	18	Waylon Prather (6-3, 229, Jr.)



# UTAH STATE AGGIES

2005 Record: 3-8 overall, 2-6 WAC

PRESEASON RANK.

#7

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	1
2004	2
2003	3
2002	8
2001	3

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Brent Guy, 2nd year (3-8)

Career record: 3-8

Stadium: Romney Stadium

Capacity: 25,025

Official athletic Web site: www.utahstateaggies.com

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	05 RESULT
S. 2	@WYOMING	
S. 9	@ARKANSAS	
S. 16	Utah	7-31
S. 23	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	
S. 30	Idaho	13-27
O. 7	Fresno State	21-53
O. 14	@SAN JOSE STATE	24-17
O. 21	@LOUISIANA TECH	17-27
N. 4	Hawaii	23-50
N. 11	@NEVADA	24-30
N. 18	@BOISE STATE	21-45
N. 25	New Mexico State	24-21

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

After falling to the Vandals 27-13 in Moscow, the Aggies will be eager to open conference play with a home victory

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 34/17

## OFFENSE

QB	7	Leon Jackson III (6-1, 196, Jr.)
RB	4	Marcus Cross (5-11, 205, Jr.)
FB	17	Ryan Bohm (5-11, 207, So.)
LT	70	Zac Zimmerman (6-5, 246, r-Fr.)
LG	64	Ryan Wilson (6-3, 256, Sr.)
C	62	Brent Deladurantey (6-3, 306, Sr.)
RG	61	Brennan McFadden (6-2, 274, r-Fr.)
RT	77	Derek Hoke (6-9, 300, So.)
TE	86	Rob Myers (6-4, 236, So.)
WR	1	Tony Pennyman (5-9, 164, Sr.)
WR	6	Kevin Robinson (6-0, 185, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	58	Ben Calderwood (6-2, 252, So.)
DT	79	E.J. Red (6-1, 297, Jr.)
DT	57	Frank Maili (6-1, 261, Jr.)
DE	97	Bevan Howard (6-2, 252, So.)
SLB	45	Devon Hall (6-3, 209, So.)
MLB	53	Jake Hutton (6-0, 220, So.)
WLB	47	Daryl Fields (5-7, 190, So.)
CB	23	Josh Taylor (6-0, 173, So.)
CB	3	Marquise Charles (5-8, 169, So.)
SS	24	Antonio Taylor (6-1, 205, Jr.)
FS	9	Terance Washington (5-11, 197, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Justin Hamblin (5-11, 141, Sr.)
P	13	Justin Hamblin (5-11, 141, Sr.)

The Aggies' inaugural season in the WAC went better than expected—a sixth-place tie with San Jose State and Idaho—considering they used 20 freshmen, 10 of whom started at least once.

With 14 returning starters, including six sophomores, Utah State should continue to make strides under second-year Coach Brent Guy. But a schedule that includes just five home games will make things difficult.

Although the team improved offensively last season (a key in the high-scoring WAC), there is still plenty of room for growth. The offense was ranked last in the conference in yards per game (317.0) and eighth in scoring (18.9 ppg).

To that end the Aggies return their starting quarterback, leading running back and top two receivers.

In his first season as a starter, junior QB Leon Jackson III threw for 1,547 yards and eight touchdowns with six interceptions. Jackson, who missed the final two games, appears to be the clear-cut starter. Backup Jerod Walker, who passed for 653 yards last season, was kicked off the team in April following an arrest for marijuana use in his dorm room.

Sophomore Ryan Bohm became the third freshman to lead Utah State in rushing, gaining 340 yards on 92 carries. In 2005, the Aggies' ground game relied more on their two quarterbacks (656 rushing yards combined) than their top four running backs (561). A player other than a running back led the team in rushing in nine of 11 games.

Tony Pennyman and Kevin Robinson could emerge as one of the best receiving tandems in the conference. Pennyman, a senior, made 63 catches for 741 yards and led the WAC in all-purpose yards. Robinson, a junior, had 43 catches for 661 yards and eight touchdowns and was second in the conference in all-purpose yards. Both players can also make big plays returning punts and kickoffs.

The defense is young, led by four returning starting sophomores and two juniors. Linebacker Jake Hutton came out of nowhere in 2005 to become the first freshman in school history to lead the team in tackles (87). Hutton, the nation's third-leading tackler among freshmen, joined the team as a walk-on and was given a full scholarship in February.

# IDAHO VANDALS

2005 Record: 2-9 overall, 2-6 WAC

Twenty-one years later and Dennis Erickson is back where he first started as a head coach—Moscow, Idaho.

The 59-year-old Erickson might be facing the most daunting task of his college coaching career. The Vandals have not won more than three games since 2000 and are coming off a 2-9 finish to their first season in the WAC.

But Erickson has won at each of his five college stops, reaching the pinnacle while at Miami with two national championships in 1989 and '91. He owns a career college record of 145-56-1, with stops at Idaho, Wyoming, Washington State, Miami and Oregon State. He also spent six lackluster seasons in the NFL as head coach of the Seattle Seahawks and San Francisco 49ers.

His most recent college stint was at Oregon State, where he led the Beavers to three bowl appearances from 1999-2002. During his first stop at Idaho, he twice led the Vandals to the Division I-AA playoffs.

Although Erickson inherits a team that returns 20 starters, including 10 on offense, he is installing a new offense that could take time to learn. The Vandals aren't making changes to their defensive schemes.

Erickson, known as an innovative offensive mind who favors the passing game, likely wants more production from quarterback Steven Wichman, who threw for 2,746 yards with 15 touchdowns and 18 interceptions last year. It might not be easy. The Vandals' top offensive threat in 2005, receiver D.J. Smith, entered the NFL Draft after averaging 100.1 yards receiving per game, second best in the conference.

Following spring practice, during which Idaho's receivers dropped numerous passes, the team was still waiting for a go-to receiver to emerge. Luke Smith-Anderson, a 6-3, 253-pound junior tight end, could fill that role. Smith Anderson, who missed the 2002, '03 and '05 seasons with two torn ACLs and a ruptured spleen, was granted two extra years of eligibility by the NCAA. In 2004, he caught 16 passes for 207 yards and a team-high four touchdowns.

Running back Jayson Bird is also coming off a season cut short by injury—he broke his collarbone in the second game of 2005. As a redshirt freshman, he rushed for 859 yards and eight touchdowns.



PRESEASON RANK:

#8

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	2
2004	3
2003	3
2002	2
2001	1

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Dennis Erickson,

1st year

Career record: 145-56-1

Stadium: Kibbie Dome

Capacity: 16,000

Official athletic Web site:

www.uavathletics.com

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	RS RESULT
S. 2	@MICHIGAN STATE	
S. 9	@WASHINGTON ST.	26-38
S. 16	Idaho State	
<b>I. 23</b>	<b>@OREGON STATE</b>	
S. 30	@UTAH STATE	27-13
O. 7	New Mexico State	38-37 (OT)
O. 14	@LOUISIANA TECH	38-41
O. 21	Buie State	35-70
O. 28	@HAWAII	0-24
N. 4	Nevada	14-62
N. 18	@FRESNO STATE	10-40
N. 25	San Jose State	18-26

## GAME TO WATCH

Erickson returns to Corvallis, where he spent four seasons as the Beavers' coach.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20  
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/8

## OFFENSE

QB	■	Steven Wichman (6-3, 219, Sr.)
RB	■■	Jayson Bird (6-0, 221, r-Sr.)
LT	68	Nate VanderPol (6-6, 306, Sr.)
LG	50	Jake Tadwick (6-5, 314, Sr.)
C	72	Adam Korby (6-2, 292, So.)
RG	65	Kris Anderson (6-3, 299, So.)
RT	71	Billy Bates (6-5, 271, So.)
TE	45	L. Smith-Anderson (6-5, 253, r-Jr.)
WR	■■	Wendell Octave (6-1, 187, Sr.)
WR	86	Lee Smith (6-0, 193, So.)
WR	37	DeAngelo Ramsey (6-2, 204, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	98	Josh Shaw (6-2, 254, So.)
DT	94	Ryan Davis (6-0, 261, Sr.)
DT	91	Sua Muisika (6-1, 293, Jr.)
DE	58	Ben Alexander (6-1, 224, Jr.)
SLB	31	Josh Bousman (6-2, 228, Jr.)
MLB	11	Jaron Williams (6-1, 217, Sr.)
WLB	40	David Vobora (6-1, 214, Jr.)
CB	6	Stanley Franks (5-11, 167, Jr.)
CB	8	Reggie Jones (5-10, 201, Jr.)
S	49	D.J. Dykes (6-3, 202, Jr.)
S	16	Tone Taupule (6-1, 205, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	43	Mike Barrow (5-11, 158, Sr.)
P	14	T.J. Conley (6-3, 216, So.)

# NEW MEXICO STATE AGGIES

2005 Record: 0-12 overall, 0-8 WAC

Although he has yet to throw a pass, sophomore quarterback Chase Holbrook is being touted as the player who will revitalize New Mexico State.

Holbrook, who spent 2005 on the bench after transferring from Southeastern Louisiana, has been handed the reins to an offense that ranked near the bottom nationally in scoring. Aggies Coach Hal Mumme originally recruited Holbrook while at Southeastern Louisiana, and when Mumme took the job at New Mexico State, the 6-6, 235-pound quarterback followed.

Holbrook is expected to give the Aggies an immediate spark. He has been studying Mumme's multi-formation offense for two years and started seven games as a freshman at Southeastern Louisiana.

Holbrook entered spring practices as the No. 1 quarterback and cemented his hold on the position with impressive performances.

The Aggies' two previous quarterbacks, Royal Gill and Joey Vincent, are no longer in the picture. Vincent has been moved to the secondary and Gill transferred to Southern Utah.

Holbrook is expected to bring more consistency to a passing attack that broke several school passing records last season, including attempts (547) and completions (310). Those numbers were more a reflection of Mumme's multiple-set, pass-oriented offense. Gill and Vincent combined to throw more interceptions (21) than touchdowns (17).

There will be plenty of experience surrounding Holbrook, including four returning receivers (Mumme uses plenty of three- and four-receiver sets). Senior Tim Tolbert, who missed four games last year with a shoulder injury, could be poised for a breakout season after catching 11 passes for 358 yards one touchdown in 2005. The addition of Miami transfer Akeem Jolla could bolster the receiving corps.

Junior Justine Burles is the conference's top returning running back (779 yards, 5 touchdowns) and could produce better numbers with Holbrook at quarterback. Burles had four 100-yard rushing games last season, but none in the final four games. He is also a receiving threat out of the backfield (23 receptions).

Senior DB Courtney Bryan is one of six starters back on a defense that allowed an average of 441.4 yards and 38.8 points per game.



PRESEASON RANK:

#9

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	0
2004	5
2003	3
2002	7
2001	5

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Hal Mumme, 2nd year (0-12)  
Career record: 97-76-1

Stadium: Aggie Memorial Stadium

Capacity: 30,343

Official athletic Web site:  
[www.nmsstatesports.com](http://www.nmsstatesports.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	RS RESULT
A. 31	Southeastern Louisiana	
S. 9	New Mexico	21-38
S. 16	Texas Southern	
S. 30	@UTEP	17-34
O. 7	@IDAHO	37-38 (OT)
O. 15	Boise State	6-56
O. 21	Hawaii	28-49
O. 28	@NEVADA	24-48
N. 4	San Jose State	10-27
N. 11	@FRESNO STATE	7-37
N. 25	@UTAH STATE	21-24
D. 2	Louisiana Tech	14-34

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

(Will the debut of QB Chase Holbrook against his former team be enough to give New Mexico State its first win since 2004?)

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14

Lettermen returning/lost: 46/14

## OFFENSE

QB	12	Chase Holbrook (6-6, 235, So.)
RB	34	Justine Burles (6-0, 200, Jr.)
LT	75	Kyle Smith (6-2, 265, Sr.)
LG	72	M. Schoonover (6-4, 290, So.)
C	69	Mike Martinez (6-3, 315, So.)
RG	55	James Farrelly (6-4, 285, Jr.)
RT	74	Adam Honaker (6-3, 295, Jr.)
WR	18	A.J. Harris (6-2, 190, So.)
WR	19	Derek Dubois (6-1, 172, Jr.)
WR	84	Tim Tolbert (6-1, 184, Sr.)
WR	2	Akeem Jolla (6-3, 200, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	45	Maunce Murray (6-3, 280, Jr.)
NG	90	Jeremy Weeks (6-2, 285, Sr.)
DE	91	Jared Naylor (6-2, 278, Sr.)
LLB	11	La'Auli Fonoti (6-2, 225, So.)
MLB	9	Shana Leapepe (6-1, 235, So.)
RLB	57	Jamar Cotton (6-0, 215, Fr.)
ROV	8	Tim McManigal (6-0, 222, Sr.)
CB	27	Courtney Bryan (5-11, 195, Sr.)
CB	36	Alex Bernard (5-8, 185, Jr.)
SS	41	Eric Carne (5-9, 200, Jr.)
FS	26	Cole Marton (6-0, 195, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	48	Matt Pratt (6-1, 170, So.)
P	5	Jared Kaufman (6-1, 177, Jr.)



## RATING THE PLAYERS:

<b>Fastest receiver</b>	McKay Jacobson, BYU
<b>Best hands</b>	Jonny Harline, TE, BYU
<b>Best passing QB</b>	John Beck, QB, BYU
<b>Best running QB</b>	Shaun Carney, QB, Air Force

<b>Most elusive RB</b>	Lynell Hamilton, RB, San Diego State
<b>Best instincts</b>	Eric Weddle, DB, Utah
<b>Best athlete</b>	Eric Weddle, DB, Utah
<b>Best under pressure</b>	Jeff Ballard, QB, TCU

<b>Top NFL prospect</b>	John Beck, QB, BYU
<b>Top impact freshman</b>	McKay Jacobson, WR, BYU
<b>Hardest hitter</b>	Cody Kase, LB, New Mexico
<b>Biggest underachiever</b>	Mike Liti, RB, Utah

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## Frogs look to be masters of Mountain West and reap rewards of new BCS format

By STEVE CARP Las Vegas Review-Journal

Unlike Utah's run in 2004, there was no Bowl Championship Series game for the Mountain West Conference last year, and that meant no jackpot payout to the league's nine member schools.

That also meant it was business as usual—teams playing in lower-tier bowls and having mixed success. However, there's a possibility (though somewhat remote) that the MWC could play itself back into the BCS picture with the new format in which officials have added a fifth game and expanded consideration to the top 12 schools in the final standings.

Defending champion Texas Christian will likely have to repeat last year's perfect 8-0 conference record and bolster its resume with some big wins in order to play in a BCS bowl. Beating Texas Tech at home Sept. 16 would help, to say nothing of taking care of business against Baylor on the road Sept. 21 and winning at Army Oct. 21.

TCU's debut in the Mountain West last year was very impressive and the Horned Frogs are definitely the team to beat in 2006. Can they go undefeated again? If TCU can win at Utah and New Mexico, perhaps. But even if the Horned Frogs don't run the table, they're still going to be tough to knock off the top perch.

Brigham Young is certainly going to make a run at the top

spot, as will Utah. Second-year Coaches Bronco Mendenhall (BYU) and Kyle Whittingham (Utah) have a better understanding of what it takes to run a football team on a day-to-day basis, meaning both should be better at their jobs. It doesn't hurt to have some experienced and talented players to make you look good either, so the Cougars (who return 13 starters, including eight on offense), and the Utes (who have 15 starters back, including eight on defense) figure to be very competitive.

After that, things get a bit dicey in the conference. Wyoming needs a new quarterback. San Diego State has a new head coach. Air Force has defensive concerns. UNLV has numerous newcomers. And New Mexico is putting in a new offensive system.

Last year, the league was hard pressed to get four teams bowl-eligible. It could be more of the same in 2006, but only because several programs are either revamping or reloading and by the time they're in sync, it may be too late for this season.

Right now, TCU is the class of the conference. While that could change a year from now, Horned Frogs Coach Gary Patterson shouldn't mind being the guy with the target on his back. It's a sure sign his team has arrived.

5

## 5 THINGS TO WATCH

Is there a reason to think TCU can go undefeated again in 2006? It could be hard to run through the Mountain West unbeaten, due to the fact there are several Mountain West teams with so many question marks. With that brings a degree of uncertainty, along with the possibility of the Horned Frogs tripping in league play.

Can Chuck Long turn things around at San Diego State right away? With his knowledge of the game, the Aztecs' new head coach should get the most out of his talent, of which there is plenty. By being more disciplined and cutting down on the mistakes, the Aztecs can be a lot better quickly.

Has Fisher DeBerry lost his touch at Air Force? Some Falcons fans believe DeBerry's system no longer works over the long haul of the season. But they should be more concerned over the fact Air Force lost to both Army and Navy last year (by identical 27-24 scores). That should linger longer than worrying about the late-season fades.

Is one-time USC recruit Rocky Hinds the savior at quarterback for UNLV? After spring practice, he was still battling Shane Steichen for the starting spot. In Hinds' defense, he hasn't played in a real game in nearly three years. He may not be the savior, per se, but when it's all said and done, Hinds should give the Rebels an upgrade at the position.

How much impact will Bob Toledo have as New Mexico's offensive coordinator? The former UCLA head coach knows how to open things up and be exciting. The question is, does he have the talent to make it work on a consistent basis? Quarterback Kole McKamey should have a lot of fun with the new offense and tight end John Mulchrone should also benefit.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

1. UTAH: Joseph Faflil, a four-star DT from Hawaii, leads a big incoming class of 25.

2. TCU: Ten of the 18 prospects were given a three-star rating by Rivals.com.

3. BYU: McKay Jacobson, from Southlake, Texas, is a big-time wideout.

4. UNLV: Large class of 26 includes one of MWC's two incoming four-star recruits.

5. SAN DIEGO STATE: Incoming rushers Davon Brown and Brandon Sullivan were rated among the top 50 running backs in California by Rivals.com.

6. COLORADO STATE: A trio of three-star offensive linemen lead this 23-player class.

7. WYOMING: Three-star Greg Bolling of Colorado is a great athlete in search of a position.

8. NEW MEXICO: Twenty-six player class has one three-star recruit, RB Michael Love of Rio Rancho, N.M.

9. AIR FORCE: The Falcons don't sign players to letters-of-intent.

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	John Beck, Sr., BYU	DL	Tommy Blake, Jr., TCU
RB	Kyle Bell, Jr., Colorado State	DL	Chase Ortiz, Jr., TCU
RB	Curtis Brown, Sr., BYU	DL	Jesse Nading, Jr., Colorado State
OL	Herbert Taylor, Sr., TCU	DL	Howie Fuimaono, Sr., UNLV
OL	Tavo Tupola, Sr., Utah	LB	Cameron Jensen, Sr., BYU
OL	Robert Turner, Sr., New Mexico	LB	Cody Kase, Jr., New Mexico
OL	Chase Johnson, Sr., Wyoming	LB	Beau Bell, Jr., UNLV
OL	Jake Kuresa, Sr., BYU	DB	Eric Weddle, Sr., Utah
TE	Jonny Harline, Sr., BYU	DB	Bobby Giannini, Jr., Air Force
WR	Brian Hernandez, Sr., Utah	DB	Terrel Maze, Sr., San Diego State
WR	Johnny Walker, Jr., Colorado State	DB	Casey Evans, Sr., Utah
PK	Chris Manfredini, Jr., TCU	P	Jimmie Taylor, Jr., Colorado State



# TEXAS CHRISTIAN

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



## Horned Frogs' balance on both sides of the ball should be enough for a second consecutive MWC title

**T**hat was some debut by the Horned Frogs, who were picked to finish fifth in the Mountain West last year and wound up winning the league going away with a perfect 8-0 record.

How did TCU get it done? It starts with talent, and the Horned Frogs had plenty on both sides of the ball. Six players were first-team All-Mountain West and another six were second-team selections. And it wasn't just at the skill positions either. Offensive linemen Herbert Taylor and Michael Toussaint were first-team picks, as were defensive linemen Chase Ortiz and Tommy Blake. That tells you Coach Gary Patterson has a solid foundation built in his program—the other part of the equation for TCU's success. Patterson is 43-18 in five seasons in Fort Worth and has taken his team to four bowl games during that time.

So important is the continuity Patterson has established that one of the first things Athletic Director Danny Morrison did after the regular season last year was extend the coach's contract through 2012. That should keep things stable for a while, along with the influx of returning starters this season.

Five starters are back on an offense that averaged 33.2 points a game last season. Senior quarterback Jeff Ballard threw for 1,801 yards and completed 59.9 percent of his passes last year. He also passed for 13 touchdowns and ran for eight more. His willingness to not make mistakes throwing the football as a junior can only speculate that he's gearing for a spectacular senior season. Ballard was intercepted just seven times in 232 attempts in 2005.

He's not going to have his favorite target to throw to, as Cory Rodgers has moved on to the NFL. But Quinten Harmon, Michael DePriest, Derek Moore and Donald Massey will give Ballard no shortage of options. Harmon had 28 catches for 318 yards last year, while DePriest has proven to be a clutch receiver—including a four-yard touchdown catch to beat Utah in overtime and an 84-yard score in the Houston Bowl last season.

Moore was fourth on the team with 19 receptions, two behind Massey's 21 catches. Walter Bryant, who had four receptions in the Houston Bowl, and junior Marcus Brock also figure to challenge for playing time. If that's not enough, Ballard can also get it to senior tight end Chad Andrus or Brent Hecht, an inviting target at 6-4 and 256 pounds.

TCU can run the ball effectively, as the team averaged 192.2 yards on the ground last year. Robert Merrill and Aaron Brown, the team's two top rushers, are back and both are impact players. Merrill averaged just less than five yards a carry as



PRESEASON RANK:

# 1

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★ ★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★ ★

2005 Record: 11-1 Mountain West: 8-0

(beat Iowa State in the Houston Bowl, 27-24)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
5. 2	@Baylor	
5. 9	California Davis	
5. 16	Texas Tech	
5. 28	Brigham Young	51-50 (OT)
6. 5	@UTAH	23-20 (OT)
6. 21	@ARMY	38-17
6. 28	Wyoming	28-14
7. 4	@UNLV	51-3
7. 11	@NEW MEXICO	49-28
7. 18	San Diego State	23-20
7. 25	@COLORADO STATE	33-6
8. 2	Air Force	48-10

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

This could be a Wild West shootout, as both teams are capable of putting up points. It's also a great test for the TCU defense.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 54/21

### OFFENSE

QB	16 Jeff Ballard (6-1 208, Sr.)
TB	33 Robert Merrill (5-10, 204, Sr.)
FB	30 Lonta Hobbs (5-10, 220, Sr.)
LT	78 Herbert Taylor (6-4, 287, Sr.)
LG	65 Giles Montgomery (6-5, 275, So.)
C	75 Blake Schlueter (6-3, 275, So.)
RG	64 Matty Lindner (6-4, 293, Jr.)
RT	71 Wade Sisk (6-7, 270, Jr.)
TE	81 Chad Andrus (6-4, 246, Sr.)
WR	19 Michael DePriest (6-0, 192, Sr.)
WR	18 Quinten Harmon (6-1, 184, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	93 Chase Ortiz (6-3, 250, Jr.)
DT	55 James Vess (6-3, 260, So.)
NT	99 Lorenzo Jones (6-4, 300, So.)
RE	97 Tommy Blake (6-3, 250, Jr.)
SLB	46 David Hawthorne (6-0, 235, Jr.)
MLB	39 Jason Phillips (6-1, 240, So.)
WS	26 Marvin White (6-2, 200, Sr.)
LCB	7 Mike Salvage (5-10, 190, Sr.)
RCB	9 Vernon Russell (6-0, 195, Sr.)
SS	25 Eric Buchanan (5-11, 196, Sr.)
FS	27 David Roach (6-2, 210, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	44 Chris Manfredini (5-9, 170, Jr.)
P	40 Brian Courtney (6-4, 215, Sr.)

# HORNED FROGS

Stadium: Amon G. Carter Stadium (44,008)

a junior and scored a team-high 10 touchdowns, so he knows how to find the end zone. Brown, who was the 2005 Mountain West's Freshman of the Year, had three 100-yard-plus rushing games last season and also showed an ability to catch the ball out of the backfield.

The Horned Frogs will also have Lonta Hobbs back. Hobbs was the starting tailback last year before injuring his groin in Week Two, knocking him out of action for the season. He's healthy now and adds depth to an already stacked position.

TCU had a school-record 50 touchdowns last year and there's a chance that mark could fall this year. However, there are questions on the offensive line, where only Taylor returns at left tackle. TCU had the same starting five linemen all 11 regular season games in 2005, and that had a lot to do with the team's success. But with sophomore Giles Montgomery penciled in to start at left guard, sophomore Blake Schlueter at center, junior Matty Lindner at right guard and Wade Sisk at right tackle, TCU seems to be in good shape up front. If any of the new starters struggle, junior-college transfer Ryan Sefton (6-5, 290) and sophomore Tyler Marrou are ready to step in on the O-line.

While TCU is loaded on offense, the defense is just as good. Over the last seven games of 2005, the Horned Frogs allowed just 13.4 points and 92.1 rushing yards a game.

It all begins at linebacker, where Jason Phillips, who led the team with 71 tackles and became the first freshman defensive player to be named second-team all-conference, returns as a starter. Junior David Hawthorne and Robert Henson (who had 69 tackles as a freshman) will battle for the strongside spot.

Up front are Blake and Ortiz, a pair of defensive ends who combined for 16 sacks last year. Lorenzo Jones and James Vess also were impact players as true freshmen and may get an opportunity to make more plays.

TCU plays a 4-2-5 defense for a reason—it has a lot of talent in the secondary. Safeties Eric Buchanan and Marvin White will try and do for TCU what corners Quincy Butler and Drew Coleman did last year, which is coming up with big plays. Seniors Vernon Russell and Mike Salvage will get the chance to replace the two standout corners.

**Head coach: Gary Patterson, 6th year (43-18)**

**Career record: 43-18**

**Assistant coaches:** Mike Schultz (off. coord./RBs), Eddie Williamson (asst. head coach/off. line), Jarrett Anderson (WRs), Dan Sharp (TEs/special teams), Dick Winder (QBs), Dick Bumpas (def. coord./def. line), Chad Glasgow (safeties), Charles McMillian (CBs), Tony Tademy (LBs)

## RATING THE RECRUITS

- 1 Clint Kenfro, WR, 6-0, 160  
*In-state prep star for nation's No. 1 team.*
- 2 Clarence Leatch, DE, 6-3, 210  
*He could also be tried at tight end.*
- 3 Ryan Sefton, OL, 6-5, 290  
*Junior-college prospect could play early.*
- 4 Jimmy Young, RB, 6-1, 200  
*Louisiana product has all the tools.*
- 5 Torrey Stewart, DB, 5-11, 175  
*Another juco set for early action.*

## BRIGHAM YOUNG



## With Beck and Brown back, look for Cougs to keep offense in fast lane under fast-moving Bronco

A winning record in the regular season and a trip to a bowl game was an impressive start for BYU first-year Coach Bronco Mendenhall. The Cougars went 6-5 in the regular season, good enough for a spot in the Las Vegas Bowl, where they lost 35-28 to California.

That's something to build on, which is Mendenhall's intention for Year Two. At BYU, winning has always been expected and there are a lot of components in place for success to happen this season.

John Beck, the first-team all-conference quarterback in 2005, is back for his senior season and with 26 starts at BYU, he's fully capable of handling anything thrown at him. Beck's 3,709 passing yards ranked fifth in the nation and he led the league with 27 touchdown passes. In seven games, he passed for more than 300 yards, so there's no questioning his arm. Even the 13 interceptions he threw came in 513 attempts.

BYU also has an accomplished running back in Curtis Brown, who had a workhorse junior season. Brown had 210 carries in 2005, rushing for 1,123 yards and 14 touchdowns, averaging 93.6 yards a game. But Brown won't have to go it alone this season, as Mendenhall is counting on Fui Vakapuna, Ray Hudson and Wayne Latu to shoulder some of the burden on the ground.

Beck lost his favorite wideout in Todd Watkins, but has Nathan Meikle (36 receptions) back, along with Matt Allen and Michael Reed. Meikle had 12 catches in the Las Vegas Bowl and Zac Collier had a couple of TD grabs against TCU. The Cougars are

### RATING THE RECRUITS

- 1 McKay Jacobson, WR, 6-0, 185**  
Texan started for nation's No. 1 prep team.
- 2 Brandon Ogletree, LB, 6-0, 215**  
Another Texas import with promise.
- 3 Michael Moore, DB, 6-2, 205**  
Californian bids for playing time.
- 4 Romney Fuga, OL, 6-2, 280**  
One of several massive linemen in class.
- 5 Max Hall, QB, 6-1, 185**  
Arizona State transfer gets good look.



PRESEASON RANK:

#2

## POWER RATINGS

	OFFENSE	DEFENSE	SPECIAL TEAMS	COACHING
OFFENSE	5	5	5	5
DEFENSE	5	5	5	5
SPECIAL TEAMS	5	5	5	5
COACHING	5	5	5	5

2005 Record: 6-6 | Mountain West: 5-3

(lost to California in the Las Vegas Bowl, 35-28)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@ARIZONA	
S. 9	Tulsa	
S. 16	@BOSTON COLLEGE	3-20
S. 23	Utah State	
S. 28	@TCU	50-51 (OT)
O. 7	San Diego State	10-31
O. 21	UNLV	55-14
O. 28	@AIR FORCE	62-41
N. 4	@COLORADO STATE	24-14
N. 9	Wyoming	35-21
N. 18	New Mexico	27-24
N. 25	@UTAH	34-41 (OT)

## \* GAME TO WATCH \*

The Cougars look to avenge last year's 20-3 loss in Provo. More importantly, there's a necessity to prove they can hang with a big-time program like the Eagles.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12  
Lettermen returning/lost: 45/23

## OFFENSE

QB	12	John Beck (6-2, 212, Sr.)
HB	6	Curtis Brown (6-0, 205, Sr.)
FB	1	Fui Vakapuna (6-0, 229, So.)
LT	59	Eddie Keele (6-5, 312, Sr.)
LG	74	Travis Bright (6-5, 315, So.)
C	55	Jeff Rhea (6-3, 292, Jr.)
RG	65	Dallas Reynolds (6-4, 345, So.)
RT	73	Jake Kuresa (6-4, 339, Sr.)
TE	13	Jonny Harline (6-4, 240, Sr.)
WR	9	Nathan Meikle (5-9, 175, Sr.)
WR	10	Matt Allen (5-11, 180, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	54	Kyle Luekenga (6-3, 263, So.)
NT	70	Hala Paongo (6-2, 280, Sr.)
DE	91	Judd Anderton (6-5, 269, Jr.)
LB	35	Cameron Jensen (6-2, 241, Sr.)
LB	36	Markell Staffieri (6-3, 233, Jr.)
LB	28	Dustin Gabriel (6-1, 201, Jr.)
LB	43	David Nixon (6-3, 220, So.)
CB	15	Justin Robinson (5-7, 154, Sr.)
CB	34	Kayle Buchanan (6-1, 197, Jr.)
S	14	Corby Hodgkiss (5-11, 196, Jr.)
S	23	David Tafuna (6-1, 198, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	30	Jared McLaughlin (6-4, 198, Sr.)
P	29	Derek McLaughlin (6-1, 203, Sr.)

## COUGARS

Stadium: LaVell Edwards Stadium (64,045)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



## CONFERENCE TITLE BOWL NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Bronco Mendenhall, 2nd year (6-6)

Career record: 6-6

Assistant coaches: Lance Reynold (asst. head coach/RBs), Robert Anae, (off coord./inside receivers), Brandon Doman (QBs), Jeff Grimes (off line), Patrick Higgins (WRs/special teams), Barry Lamb (OLBs), Paul Tidwell (ILBs), Steve Kaufusi, (def. line), Jamie Hill (secondary)

hoping freshman McKay Jacobson from Southlake, Texas, can come in and contribute right away. Reliable Jonny Harline, who led the team in receptions (63) and receiving yards (853) last season, is considered one of the country's top tight ends and will continue to be a favorite target of Beck.

BYU returns three of its five starting offensive linemen—right tackle Jake Kuresa, left tackle Eddie Keele and 345-pound right guard Dallas Reynolds, who are the anchors to a very strong O line. The key will be at center, where Jeff Rhea, Erik Freeman and Sete Aulai are all battling to replace all-conference performer Lance Reynolds.

Defensively, things need to get better. BYU allowed an average of 29.2 points in 2005 and more alarming was the fact that in the fourth quarter, the Cougars gave up more points (96) than any other period. It's a trend that must stop if BYU wants to be serious title contenders.

Maybe everyone on the new-look 3-4 defense can follow Cameron Jensen's lead. The senior middle linebacker has led BYU in tackles for two straight years, including 84 last year (44 of them solo). His motor is always running and if Jensen can set the tone for his teammates, it's possible the points allowed will decrease.

Mendenhall believes the linebacker corps is the strength of his team's defense, and Markell Staffieri will get an opportunity to work alongside Jensen. Staffieri saw action in all 12 games last season and figures to only get better.

One key switch for BYU is moving Dustin Gabriel from safety to linebacker. A hard hitter, Gabriel should shore up the outside. The switch shows Mendenhall has enough talent in the secondary, where Corby Hodgkiss had a big 2005, recording 26 tackles and a pair of sacks. David Tafuna played in all 12 games and Quinn Gooch had 30 tackles in nine games. They'll team with corners Justin Robinson and Kayle Buchanan, both of whom gained valuable experience a year ago.

Brigham Young's kicking game appears to be in good shape, with Jared McLaughlin making 14 of 19 field goals last year, including a perfect 11 for 11 inside the 40-yard line. Derek McLaughlin, a transfer from Washington, averaged 40 yards per punt in 2005, with 13 attempts downed inside the 20-yard line.

The Cougars figure to be able to score this season. The question is, can they stop their opponents from finding the end zone?

## UTAH

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



## Utes hang 2006 hopes on strong defense, as question marks abound on the offensive side

Life after Alex Smith and Urban Meyer was expectedly rough in Salt Lake City last season. But despite a fall from grace that produced a 4-4 conference record, the Utes still managed to have an overall record of 7-5 and earned a trip to the Emerald Bowl, where they defeated Georgia Tech 38-10.

Year Two for Coach Kyle Whittingham figures to be much easier and should yield better results. Last season's results weren't as disastrous as some thought, even though Utah was picked to repeat as MWC champion and wound up tied for third. With 5 starters returning (including eight on defense), look for the Utes to be a factor from start to finish this year.

Plenty of competition was abound during the spring, beginning at quarterback—where Brian Johnson and Brett Ratliff were battling each other for the starting job. Johnson, a junior who is bouncing back from offseason knee surgery, was a second-team all-conference pick after throwing for 2,892 yards and running for an additional 478 before suffering his injury against New Mexico Nov. 12. He led the Mountain West and was fourth in the nation for total offense at 337 yards per game.

Ratliff, who showed off his strong arm in the last two games of the season and led Utah to wins over BYU and Georgia Tech, makes the right decisions and has good speed and agility for his size (6-4, 224). His confidence has grown immeasurably after the strong finish, so the competition figures to continue through the fall.

Some unanswered questions remain at running back, where sophomore Darrell Mack will get the chance to be an every-down player. His blocking skills need some work, but Mack is quick, elusive and capable of putting up big numbers. Former USC transfer Darryl Poston was granted an extra year of eligibility from the NCAA, however, health remains an issue with him. Also trying to shake the injury bug is Mike Liti, who averaged 4.0 yards a carry in seven games last year.

On the offensive line, senior tackle Tavo Tupola was a second-team all-conference pick last season and junior Jason Boone anchors the unit on the other side. Robert Conley, a 311-pound sophomore, made dramatic improvement in his first year and will start at right guard. Redshirt freshman Zane Beadles, along with Dustin Hensel and Corey Seiuli, should all find themselves getting time. All conference center Jesse Boone must be replaced and either Kyle Gunther or Jeremy Inferrera will get the opportunity.



## UTES

Stadium: Rice-Eccles Stadium (45,017)



## PRESEASON RANK:

#3

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★
COACHING	★★

## 2005 Record: Mountain West

7-5      4-4

(beat Georgia Tech in the Emerald Bowl, 38-10)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2 @UCLA	
S. 9 Northern Arizona	
S. 16 @UTAH STATE	31-7
S. 23 @SAN DIEGO STATE	19-28
S. 30 Boise State	
<b>0.5 TCU</b>	<b>20-23 (OT)</b>
O. 14 @WYOMING	43-13
O. 19 @NEW MEXICO	27-31
O. 28 UNLV	42-32
N. 11 Colorado State	17-21
N. 18 @AIR FORCE	38-35
N. 25 Brigham Young	41-34 (OT)

## GAME TO WATCH

The Utes get the defending conference champs at home, which is a chance to make an early statement in conference play.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15  
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/29

## OFFENSE

QB	3 Brian Johnson (6-1, 199, Jr.)
RB	12 Darrell Mack (6-0, 216, So.)
LT	78 Tavo Tupola (6-3, 300, Sr.)
LG	75 Eric Pettit (6-4, 306, Sr.)
C	63 Kyle Gunther (6-4, 302, Jr.)
RG	66 Robert Conley (6-1, 311, So.)
RT	69 Jason Boone (6-4, 294, Jr.)
WR	26 Demrek Richards (5-11, 175, Jr.)
WR	5 Brent Casteel (5-10, 193, So.)
WR	2 Marquis Wilson (5-11, 173, So.)
WR	16 Brian Hernandez (6-0, 175, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	93 Martau Burnett (6-3, 248, Jr.)
DT	98 Kelly Talavou (6-2, 307, Sr.)
DT	90 Paul Soliai (6-4, 318, Sr.)
DE	97 Soli Lefiti (6-4, 265, Sr.)
SLB	14 Kyle Brady (6-1, 232, Jr.)
MLB	37 Loma Olevao (6-1, 232, Jr.)
WLB	44 Joe Jannone (6-1, 230, Jr.)
CB	6 Brice McCain (5-9, 178, So.)
CB	29 Eric Shyne (5-10, 178, Sr.)
FS	28 Steve Tate (5-11, 197, Jr.)
SS	32 Eric Weddle (6-0, 200, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	35 Louie Sakoda (5-10, 175, So.)
P	35 Louie Sakoda (5-10, 175, So.)

## RATING THE RECRUTS

1 Walter Watts, OL, 6-3, 315  
California star looked as top prospect

2 Zeke Wily, DL, 6-4, 310  
In-state product could also play offense.

3 Justin Jones, DB, 6-0, 180  
Texan has secondary tools, skills.

4 Chet Blasucci, LB, 6-2, 240  
Junior-college prospect has promise.

5 Aaron Tonga, DL, 6-3, 280  
Another juco product who could play.



ALBUQUERQUE

## NEW MEXICO LOBOS

2005 Record: 6-5 overall, 4-4 Mountain West

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	▲ 7
2003	▲ 8
2002	▲ 7
2001	8

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Rocky Long, 9th year (46-50)

Career record: 46-50

Stadium: University Stadium

Capacity: 38,634

Official athletic Web site:

www.golobos.com

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2 Port and State	
S. 9 @NEW MEXICO ST	38-21
S. 16 Missouri	45-35
S. 23 UTEP	13-21
S. 30 @AIR FORCE	24-42
O. 7 Wyoming	27-24
O. 14 @UNLV	24-22
O. 19 Utah	31-27
O. 26 @COLORADO STATE	25-35
N. 11 TCU	28-49
N. 18 @BRIGHAM YOUNG	24-27
N. 25 San Diego State	43-24

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

It's the last game of the year, it's at home and it could be for a bowl bid. A lot could be riding on this one.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12

Lettermen returning/lost: 36/22

## OFFENSE

QB	12	Kole McKamey (6-2, 205, Sr.)
FB	31	Matt Quisen (6-0, 249, So.)
TB	B	Martelius Epps (5-10, 182, Jr.)
LT	75	Anthony Kirby (6-4, 335, Jr.)
LG	64	Bo Greer (6-3, 318, Sr.)
C	66	Vince Nata (2-2, 298, Jr.)
RG	63	Matt Stred (6-3, 320, Jr.)
RT	59	Robert Turner (6-4, 325, Sr.)
TE	63	John Mulchrone (6-4, 230, Sr.)
WR	81	Travis Brown (6-3, 180, Jr.)
WR	4	Marcus Smith (6-3, 209, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

LE	41	Michael Tuohy (6-2, 233, Jr.)
NT	60	Billy Brittan (6-1, 249, Sr.)
RE	57	S. Hutchinson (6-3, 242, Jr.)
LB	47	Cody Kase (6-2, 212, Jr.)
LB	48	Justin Clayton (5-10, 212, Sr.)
LB	11	Quincy Black (6-3, 232, Sr.)
LB	9	Tyson Diltmore (6-1, 203, Jr.)
LCB	19	Glover Quin (5-10, 200, So.)
RCB	10	Juanmar Hall (5-11, 172, Jr.)
LS	29	Blake Ligon (6-1, 177, So.)
RS	2	DeAndre Wright (6-0, 178, So.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	Kenny Byrd (6-0, 166, Sr.)
P	Jordan Scott (6-0, 186, Jr.)



COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

## AIR FORCE FALCONS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, 3-5 Mountain West

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	5
2003	7
2002	8
2001	8

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Fisher DeBerry, 23rd year (165-101-1)

Career record: 165-101-1

Stadium: Falcon Stadium

Capacity: 46,692

Official athletic Web site:  
www.airforcesports.com

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 9 @TENNESSEE	
S. 23 @WYOMING	28-29
S. 30 New Mexico	42-24
O. 7 Navy	24-27
O. 12 Colorado State	23-41
O. 21 @SAN DIEGO STATE	41-29
O. 28 Brigham Young	41-62
N. 3 @ARMY	24-27
N. 11 Notre Dame	
N. 18 Utah	35-38
N. 24 @UNLV	42-7
D. 2 @TCU	10-48

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

It's one thing for Air Force to lose to Navy, since the Midshipmen have picked up the quality of their program. But a second straight loss to Army here won't sit well with the generals.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13

Lettermen returning/lost: 40/21

## FENSE

QB	5	Shaun Carney (5-10, 190, Jr.)
FB	8	Jacobe Kendrick (6-0, 230, Sr.)
SB	18	Austin Handley (5-8, 175, Sr.)
WB	23	Chad Hall (5-8, 180, Jr.)
LT	72	Robert Kraay (6-8, 295, Sr.)
LG	61	Tyler Dohallow (6-3, 280, Sr.)
RG	62	Curtis Grantham (6-2, 280, Sr.)
RT	70	Ryan Zeman (6-4, 265, Jr.)
TE	86	Chris Evans (6-2, 240, Jr.)
WR	81	Victor Thompson (6-0, 195, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

LE	55	Gilberto Perez (6-3, 275, Sr.)
LT	96	Grant Thomas (6-1, 275, Sr.)
RT	99	Kevin Quinn (6-1, 245, Sr.)
RE	97	Josh Clayton (6-4, 250, So.)
LB	33	Drew Fowler (6-2, 235, Jr.)
LB	9	John Rebolo (6-4, 220, So.)
FAL	4	Julian Madrid (6-0, 205, Jr.)
FAL	32	Hunter Allman (5-11, 195, So.)
LC	3	Nathan Smith (5-10, 175, Jr.)
RC	6	Chris Sutton (6-0, 180, Sr.)
FS	11	Bobby Giannini (6-2, 210, So.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	47	Zach Sasser (6-1, 175, Sr.)
P	87	Chris Carp (5-9, 170, Sr.)

So what does DeBerry do? He's got five returning starters from last year's defense, including end Gilberto Perez, a good player who is coming off knee surgery. Junior free safety Bobby Giannini is also talented and quickly earning a reputation for being a big hitter. But the Falcons gave up a lot of big plays last season and if they're going to get better as a unit, it begins with getting stops.

If the Falcons aren't better on defense, it means the offense is going to have to score a lot of points. And that means quarterback Shaun Carney is going to get hit a lot, whether or not he has the ball! The junior rushed for 710 yards last year and 11 touchdowns while passing for 1,393 yards and seven TDs. He connected on 64.2 percent of his passes and had just seven interceptions.

But Air Force usually doesn't win when it's throwing the ball. So junior running back Chad Hall will have to improve on his 31.3-yard average per game from a year ago. He only had 66 rushing attempts, as Carney and Jacobe Kendrick got the majority of the touches. Kendrick, a senior fullback, pounded his way for 532 yards and six touchdowns and figures to continue to get a lot of carries again this season.

# COLORADO STATE RAMS

**2005 Record:** 6-6 overall, 5-3 Mountain West  
(lost to Navy in the Poinsettia Bowl, 51-30)

The Rams are a program that's not used to losing. So it was encouraging to see Colorado State bounce back from a 4-7 performance in 2004 to go 6-6 and make it to a bowl game in 2005.

Even better was the fact Coach Sonny Lubick's team finished 5-3 in the Mountain West, good for a second-place tie. That the Rams got blown out 51-30 by Navy in the Poinsettia Bowl doesn't diminish the accomplishments in Lubick's eyes.

Colorado State's turnaround was due to improved quarterback play from Justin Holland, a better job of running the ball by Kyle Bell and an ability to put points on the board. But Holland has graduated, which likely leaves the controls to Caleb Hanie, who was 13 of 29 for 251 yards and two touchdowns in limited action last year.

The nice thing for the Rams is that Hanie doesn't necessarily have to go out and win the game for them each Saturday. In Bell, they have a reliable back who can handle a heavy workload. He had 276 carries last year and averaged 107.3 yards a game.

If Hanie needs to throw the ball, he's got some weapons at his disposal. Split end Johnny Walker had 43 catches and two touchdowns last year and H-back Kory Sperry had 42 grabs and four TDs. Dustin Osborn also can make plays, as he had five touchdown catches among his 19 receptions.

On the other side of the ball, Colorado State's defense needs to pick things up, with the Rams allowing almost 31 points a game last year. Lubick's teams have been good defensively in the past and rising star Jesse Nading will be charged with getting the unit going in the right direction. The junior defensive end led the team with four sacks in 2005.

Defensive tackle Blake Smith is also effective, giving CSU a nice tandem up front. Defensive end Wade Landers was coming on late in the season as a freshman and perhaps will emerge as a force this season.

Colorado State was plus-5 on takeaways a year ago, so if the Rams can get that number into double digits, it would go a long way toward addressing their defensive concerns. Special teams are not a problem, as punter Jimmie Kaylor was a first-team all-conference performer last year. He averaged 45.3 yards a kick, the best punting average at the school in 30 years.



PRESEASON RANK.

#6

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	▲ 6
2004	4
2003	▲ 7
2002	▲ 10
2001	▲ 7

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Sonny Lubick, 14th year  
(101-57) **Career record:** 122-76

**Stadium:** Sunnyside Field at Hughes Stadium

**Capacity:** 34,400

**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.csurams.com](http://www.csurams.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	Weber State	
S. 9	Colorado*	28-31
S. 16	@NEVADA	42-21
S. 30	@FRESNO STATE	
O. 7	UNLV	31-27
O. 12	@AIR FORCE	41-23
O. 21	@WYOMING	39-31
O. 28	New Mexico	35-25
N. 4	Brigham Young	14-24
N. 11	@UTAH	21-17
N. 25	TCU	6-33
D. 2	@SAN DIEGO STATE	10-30

## \* GAME TO WATCH \*

*The Buffaloes may have a new coach, but the hatred for CU remains as strong as ever*

\* Denver

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/15

## OFFENSE

QB	16	Caleb Hanie (6-2, 236, Jr.)
RB	34	Kyle Bell (6-2, 226, Jr.)
HB	80	Kory Sperry (6-6, 233, Jr.)
LT	71	Clint Oldenburg (6-5, 297, Sr.)
LG	67	Jerome Williams (6-2, 334, Sr.)
C	64	Nick Allotta (6-3, 304, Jr.)
RG	76	Josh Day (6-4, 304, Sr.)
RT	75	Dane Stratton (6-5, 299, So.)
TE	88	Chris Kawuluk (6-3, 251, So.)
SE	7	Johnny Walker (6-0, 190, Jr.)
FL	85	Dustin Osborn (6-0, 194, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

LE	93	Wade Landers (6-6, 235, So.)
NT	97	Blake Smith (6-2, 269, So.)
DT	45	Matt Rupp (6-3, 275, So.)
RE	59	Jesse Nading (6-5, 258, Jr.)
SLB	9	Luke Adkins (6-2, 241, Sr.)
MLB	51	Jeff Honnек (6-3, 236, So.)
WLB	25	Jon Radford (6-1, 241, Sr.)
CB	39	Darryl Williams (5-9, 180, Jr.)
CB	6	Robert Herbert (6-1, 208, Sr.)
FS	20	Klinton Kubiak (6-0, 190, So.)
SS	3	Ben Stratton (6-2, 207, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	37	Jason Smith (6-2, 201, So.)
P	8	Jimmie Kaylor (6-3, 198, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

# UNLV REBELS

**2005 Record:** 2-9 overall, 1-7 Mountain West

Remember those youth football camps where the players wear their last name on the front of their helmets? That's going to be the case in Las Vegas this season, where second-year Coach Mike Sanford has overhauled the operation and has shuffled in numerous players to wear the scarlet and gray.

The most heralded newcomer is quarterback Rocky Hinds. A one-time USC prodigy, Hinds transferred to UNLV last year and is ready to go after sitting out in 2005 due to NCAA rules. How effective he'll be remains to be seen, since Hinds hasn't played an actual game in almost three years. But he's got a big arm, is athletic and has the tools to run Sanford's spread offense.

If Hinds isn't UNLV's starting quarterback in the season opener, that means Shane Steichen will have beaten him. Steichen, a senior, was neck-and-neck with Hinds at the end of spring practice, but when the competition continues in August, look for the newest Rebel to emerge as the starter.

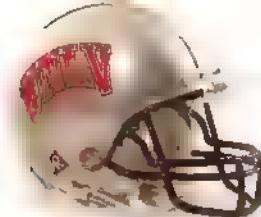
Hinds isn't the only gem waiting to show what he can do. UCLA transfer Eric Wright is the shutdown cornerback the Rebels have been waiting for, and he'll add to an already-good secondary. Senior John Guice can hit, while Nate Kenion and Jay Staggs gained valuable experience in the system last year.

Up front, Howie Fuimaono anchors a young defensive line, and the senior nose guard's extra attracted attention will allow transfer Jeremy Geathers the opportunity to beat his man one-on-one.

The Rebels' linebacker unit will be better too, as junior Beau Bell is all-league caliber and junior-college transfer Adrian Bradley is expected to contribute right away. The defense has nowhere to go but up after finishing dead last in the league in points allowed (34.6 a game).

UNLV was also last in total offense, averaging just 325.2 yards and 18.8 points a game. But with Hinds, tailback Erick Jackson and a group of young and talented receivers to throw to, the Rebels should escape the bottom of that statistical category.

The team has a reliable placekicker in Sergio Aguayo and a solid punter in Kip Facer, who averaged 41 yards per boot in 2005. What this team needs is some confidence, and a win Sept. 2 against Idaho State is a good start.



PRESEASON RANK.

#7

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	2
2004	2
2003	8
2002	5
2001	4

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Mike Sanford, 2nd year (2-9)

**Career record:** 2-9

**Stadium:** Sam Boyd Stadium

**Capacity:** 36,800

**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.unlvrebels.com](http://www.unlvrebels.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	Idaho State	
S. 9	@IOWA STATE	
S. 16	@HAWAII	
S. 30	Nevada	14-22
O. 7	@COLORADO STATE	27-31
O. 14	New Mexico	22-24
O. 21	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	14-55
O. 28	@UTAH	32-42
N. 4	TCU	3-51
N. 11	@SAN DIEGO STATE	13-10
N. 18	Wyoming	17-42
N. 24	Air Force	7-42

## \* GAME TO WATCH \*

*There's always bad blood between the two Silver State schools and after road games at Iowa State and Hawaii, this contest could define UNLV's season.*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14  
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/26

## OFFENSE

QB	3	Rocky Hinds (6-5, 220, So.)
TB	26	Erick Jackson (5-6, 185, Sr.)
HB	17	R. Saint Preux (6-1, 180, So.)
LT	77	Chris Bowser (6-6, 285, Sr.)
LG	63	Brandon Gray (6-4, 325, Sr.)
C	54	Aaron Mueller (6-2, 290, Sr.)
RG	74	Mike McKissic (6-6, 320, Jr.)
RT	70	Marco Guerra (6-5, 335, Sr.)
WR	7	Corey Anderson (6-0, 170, So.)
WR	84	Rodelin Anthony (6-5, 220, Jr.)
WR	80	Casey Flair (6-1, 190, So.)

## DEFENSE

DE	9	Jeremy Geathers (6-2, 250, So.)
NG	94	Howie Fuimaono (6-0, 335, Sr.)
DE	92	Jacob Hales (6-3, 280, So.)
LB	47	Beau Bell (6-3, 235, Jr.)
LB	34	Matt Patterson (6-3, 230, Sr.)
LB	52	Adrian Bradley (5-11, 225, Jr.)
CB	1	John Guice (5-9, 180, Sr.)
CB	21	Eric Wright (5-11, 190, Jr.)
NB	36	Nate Kenion (5-10, 200, Sr.)
S	25	Daryl Forte (5-10, 180, Fr.)
S	42	Jay Staggs (6-1, 225, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	10	Sergio Aguayo (6-1, 200, Jr.)
P	82	Kip Facer (6-0, 210, Sr.)



## SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS

2005 Record: 5-7 overall, 4-4 Mountain West

After letting go of the underachieving Tom Craft, the Aztecs now look for new Coach Chuck Long to revive their sagging football fortunes.

Long, who has spent the last six years at Oklahoma (including the last four as the Sooners' offensive coordinator), is not going for the quick fix. Don't look for him to just open things up and play wild-and-crazy football. Quite the opposite, actually. Long's plan is to stay the course, play ball control, stop people on defense and build a solid foundation.

Of course, that sort of thinking takes time. And while SDSU's dwindling fan base may not be patient, Long is. More important, so is Athletic Director Jeff Schemmel, the guy who hired Long in December.

Look for the Aztecs to be more disciplined in everything they do. That means an end to the stupid penalties, mental mistakes and high-risk schemes that defined Craft's tenure—which alone will make San Diego State better.

So will getting the most out of its talent. The Aztecs have guys who can play, but consistency hasn't been a trademark of late. Quarterback Kevin O'Connell has the tools to be a very good college quarterback and the junior threw for 2,663 yards and 19 touchdowns last season, along with 12 interceptions. Look for Long to put in an offensive package that will economize O'Connell's throws and turn him into more of a high percentage passer.

The Aztecs also have a talented running back in junior Lynell Hamilton, who has been SDSU's leading rusher in each of his first two seasons and had 26 receptions for 144 yards to go along with his 819 rushing yards and nine TDs last year. Hamilton is the perfect all-purpose back for what Long is looking to do and has the chance to be a special player.

While the Aztecs may have been frustrating to watch when on offense, they weren't much better on the other side of the ball. The defense allowed an average of 406 yards a game, third worst in the Mountain West. Cornerbacks Terrell Maze and Donny Baker and safety Reggie Grigsby lead the secondary. Linebacker Joe Martin, a three-year letterman and All-MWC honorable-mention pick last year, should also be a force. The Aztecs have a rising star in junior punter Michael Hughes.

PRESEASON RANK:

**#8**

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	4
2003	6
2002	4
2001	3

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Chuck Long, 1st year  
**Stadium:** Qualcomm Stadium  
**Capacity:** 54,000  
**Official athletic Web site:** [www.goaztecs.com](http://www.goaztecs.com)

### 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
A. 31	UTEPE	
S. 16	@WISCONSIN	
S. 23	Utah	28-19
S. 30	@SAN JOSE STATE	52-21
O. 7	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	31-10
O. 21	Air Force	29-41
O. 28	Cal Poly	
N. 4	@WYOMING	34-21
N. 11	UNLV	10-13
N. 18	@TCU	20-23
N. 25	@NEW MEXICO	24-47
D. 2	Colorado State	30-10

### \* GAME TO WATCH \*

The Aztecs open the Chuck Long Era at home, giving him an immediate chance to win over the community and instill some confidence in the players.

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17

Lettermen returning/lost: 41/17

### OFFENSE

QB	7	Kevin O'Connell (6-6, 220, Jr.)
HB	37	Brandon Barnes (6-1, 215, Jr.)
TB	22	Lynell Hamilton (6-1, 220, Jr.)
LT	76	Will Robinson (6-6, 270, Jr.)
LG	59	Nick Smith (6-6, 280, Sr.)
C	75	Patrick Justman (6-5, 305, Sr.)
RG	77	Mike Schmidt (6-2, 300, So.)
RT	70	Mike Kravetz (6-5, 290, Jr.)
TE	81	Steve Schmidt (6-5, 240, Sr.)
WR	1	C. Schilens (6-4, 205, Jr.)
WR	16	Brett Swain (6-1, 200, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	93	A. Applewhite (6-3, 235, Jr.)
DT	96	Frederick Amano (6-3, 300, Jr.)
NT	99	Jonathan Bailes (6-1, 297, Sr.)
DE	94	Nick Osborn (6-4, 255, Jr.)
SLB	45	Andrew Schantz (6-2, 235, So.)
MLB	51	Joe Martin (6-1, 225, Sr.)
WLB	46	Russel Allen (6-3, 225, So.)
CB	9	Terrell Maze (5-11, 170, Sr.)
CB	3	Donny Baker (5-9, 165, Sr.)
LS	12	Brett Sturm (6-2, 200, Sr.)
RS	31	Reggie Grigsby (5-11, 205, Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	14	Garrett Palmer (6-2, 180, So.)
P	17	Michael Hughes (5-10, 185, Jr.)



## WYOMING COWBOYS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-6 Mountain West

Cowboys Coach Joe Glenn has been beloved since the day he stepped foot in Laramie three years ago. But is the bloom off the rose?

Big things were expected from the Cowboys in 2005. They were coming off a huge 24-21 win over UCLA in the Las Vegas Bowl and with a 7-5 record, fans were hoping for even more fun at War Memorial Stadium. Instead, the team lost a couple of close games late last season and the 4-1 start wound up being a 4-7 finish. Worse, the team returns just six starters on both sides of the ball, which means there's a lot of rebuilding for Glenn and his staff.

Wyoming needs to find a new quarterback for the graduated Corey Bramlet. The Cowboys also lost star receiver and kick returner Jovon Bouknight and wideout Jason Wallace, as well as tight end John Wadkowski. Center Drew Severn, who started all 11 games last year, also needs to be replaced.

So who will take the snaps from center? Junior Jacob Doss figures to have a good shot to start, given his experience in the program. But junior-college transfer Ian Hetrick is expected to battle for the spot. The good news is whoever gets the quarterback job will likely find himself being fairly well protected, as most of the big offensive line is back, including tackles Chase Johnson and Hunter Richards, center Jason Karcher and guard Kyle Howard.

Wyoming has no problems in its running game, with sophomore Wynel Seldon scoring 11 touchdowns to go along with an average of 79.2 yards a game last season. Since the Cowboys will have an unproven player under center, expect Seldon to get a lot of touches this year.

If the Cowboys are to get back to winning ways, it may be their defense that carries the day. The team's linebacker corps remains intact, as Luke Chase, Mike Juergens, Ward Dobbs and Austin Hall anchor the 3-4 alignment. Those four cover a lot of ground, are good hitters and play well together. The secondary is led by strong safety John Wendling, who finished second on the team in tackles (75) last season and was an honorable-mention all-conference pick. Up front, Jake Mayes has experience at noseguard and will attract extra attention.

Wyoming has big holes to fill at punter and placekicker.

PRESEASON RANK:

**#9**

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	▲ 7
2003	4
2002	2
2001	2

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL  
★ NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Joe Glenn, 4th year (15-20)  
**Career record:** 173-79-1  
**Stadium:** Jonah Field at War Memorial Stadium  
**Capacity:** 32,580  
**Official athletic Web site:** [www.wyomingathletics.com](http://www.wyomingathletics.com)

### 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	Utah State	
S. 9	@VIRGINIA	
S. 16	Boise State	
S. 23	Air Force	29-28
S. 30	@SYRACUSE	
O. 7	@NEW MEXICO	24-27
O. 14	Utah	13-43
O. 21	Colorado State	31-39
O. 28	@TCU	14-28
N. 4	San Diego State	21-34
N. 9	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	21-35
N. 16	@UNLV	42-17

### \* GAME TO WATCH \*

This game is Wyoming's conference opener and it's imperative the Cowboys get off to a fast start if they hope to make some noise in the Mountain West. The Falcons aren't as dominating as they've been in the past.

### PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12

Lettermen returning/lost: 36/29

### OFFENSE

QB	7	Jacob Doss (6-2, 210, Jr.)
RB	18	Wynel Seldon (6-0, 205, So.)
LT	73	Chase Johnson (6-8, 325, Sr.)
LG	76	Kyle Howard (6-6, 299, So.)
C	69	Jason Karcher (6-3, 291, Sr.)
RG	74	Tim Bond (6-4, 296, So.)
RT	67	Hunter Richards (6-7, 297, Sr.)
TE	46	Wade Belschart (6-3, 255, Jr.)
WR	8	Michael Ford (6-2, 203, Jr.)
WR	5	Tyler Holden (6-0, 179, Sr.)
WR	6	Hoost Marsh (5-9, 172, Jr.)

### DEFENSE

DE	95	Corey Mace (6-3, 287, Sr.)
NG	97	Jake Mayes (6-3, 292, Sr.)
DT	93	Mike Groover (6-3, 250, Sr.)
LB	80	Mike Juergens (6-4, 240, So.)
LB	29	Ward Dobbs (6-0, 242, So.)
LB	53	Luke Chase (6-1, 240, Jr.)
LB	45	Austin Hall (6-2, 225, Sr.)
CB	20	Julius Stinson (5-10, 177, Jr.)
CB	28	Michael Medina (6-0, 181, Jr.)
FS	24	Dorsey Golston (6-0, 194, Sr.)
SS	33	John Wendling (6-1, 222, Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	89	Jake Scott (5-8, 157, Jr-Fr)
P	25	Billy Vinnedge (6-1, 188, Jr.)

**RATING THE PLAYERS:**

<b>Fastest receiver</b>	Ryne Robinson, Miami
<b>Best hands</b>	Eric Deslauriers, WR, Eastern Michigan
<b>Best passing QB</b>	Luke Getsy, Akron
<b>Best running QB</b>	Tyler Jones, Eastern Michigan

<b>Most elusive RB</b>	Garrett Wolfe, Northern Illinois
<b>Best instincts</b>	Daniel Holtzclaw, LB, Eastern Michigan
<b>Best athlete</b>	Jabari Arthur, WR, Akron
<b>Best under pressure</b>	Chris Nendick, PK, Northern Illinois

<b>Top NFL prospect</b>	Doug Free, OT, Northern Illinois
<b>Top impact freshman</b>	Ray Williams, RB, Toledo
<b>Hardest hitter</b>	Dan Bazuin, DE, Central Michigan
<b>Biggest underachiever</b>	Mark Bonds, RB, Western Michigan



Predictions/Order of finish

**EAST****One-time doormat Akron looks to Zip to a MAC repeat**By JOHN WAGNER *The Toledo Blade*

**Can Northern Illinois rebuild its offensive line?** The position has been a team strength in recent seasons. If this year's line is good enough, the Huskies will be the class of the MAC.

**Will Akron repeat its successful run of last season?** The Zips won their first MAC title since entering the conference in 1992; their berth in the Motor City Bowl was the team's first postseason appearance since becoming a Division I-A member in 1987.

**Can Miami replace 16 graduated starters?** Depth has not been a problem for the RedHawks in recent seasons, but it sure will be a test as Miami looks to record its 13th straight winning season in the MAC.

**What kind of play will Toledo get at quarterback?** After three years of being led by the steady Bruce Gradkowski, the Rockets have enough talent to contend if they get solid play behind center.

**What team will surprise the rest of the league?** It's a yearly event in the MAC to see one team confound the experts and challenge for a title. This year there are plenty of candidates, including Ball State, Central Michigan, Ohio and Western Michigan.

Many people felt the Mid-American Conference came of age on September 20, 2003. That was the date three different league schools (Northern Illinois, Marshall and Toledo) scored victories over BCS programs.

Some feel the MAC took its biggest step forward in the 2004 bowl season, when the conference received an unprecedented five bowl bids, more than double its previous high. But the truth of the matter is the MAC's biggest advancement may have come last season. How, you ask? It's true that the league's most notable victory last season was Ohio's overtime win against a disappointing Pittsburgh squad, and the MAC garnered just two bowl bids—both of which have automatic ties to the league. And there were no earth-shaking performances that vaulted players to first-round NFL Draft status, such as the effort former Miami quarterback Ben Roethlisberger produced in 2003.

Still, last season eventually may prove to be more important to the MAC's development because of a major difference from years past: The league's upper stratus had a visitor.

In previous years, the MAC had seemed to form into two levels. The first plane included teams with a legitimate shot at a league title, a group that was usually made up of Bowling Green, Miami, Northern Illinois, Toledo and

Marshall, which last year departed for Conference USA.

The other MAC schools seemed to be at a lower level, occasionally challenging the "big boys," but generally struggling just to reach the .500 level. Then last season Akron crashed the party, winning its first league title since joining the conference in 1992.

And what's more, both Western Michigan and Central Michigan nearly joined the party as well, finishing one game behind West Division champs Northern Illinois and Toledo.

Now, Akron's championship was anything but convincing. It had to win a three-way tiebreaker just to claim the East Division title, and it took a touchdown with just 10 seconds to play for the Zips to beat Northern Illinois in the MAC Championship game. And while the two Michigan schools came close, neither actually reached the summit.

But this isn't a question of whether Akron was deserving of the title, or if the improvement by the Broncos and Chippewas was a fluke. The bigger, more important question is whether one of those three teams, or perhaps another club outside The Big Four can compete for the title this year.

Why is it important? The MAC is striving to shake off its "mid-major" label and can't when some of its members lose by lopsided margins to the BCS schools.



RECRUITING ROUNDUP

**RECRUITING ROUNDUP**

**1. BALL STATE:** Seven Georgia recruits highlight this "peachy" class.

**2. AKRON:** Ten Florida recruits are key to this group.

**3. TOLEDO:** "Big" class includes nine linemen.

**4. BOWLING GREEN:** One of nation's top prep punters is among 24 signees.

**5. MIAMI:** Fifteen of 22 signees are from Buckeye state.

**6. WESTERN MICHIGAN:** Fifteen of 22 newcomers expected to play offense.

**7. NORTHERN ILLINOIS:** Seventeen signees, in what Coach Joe Novak calls his most "athletic" class.

**8. CENTRAL MICHIGAN:** A whopping 12 defensive backs among 26 signees.

**9. EASTERN MICHIGAN:** Several top running backs among 22 players signed.

**10. OHIO:** Ten Ohioans—and one Nebraskan—signed by Coach Frank Solich.

**11. BUFFALO:** Only 18 signees in Coach Turner Gill's first class.

**12. KENT STATE:** Just 16 signees won't help team's depth.

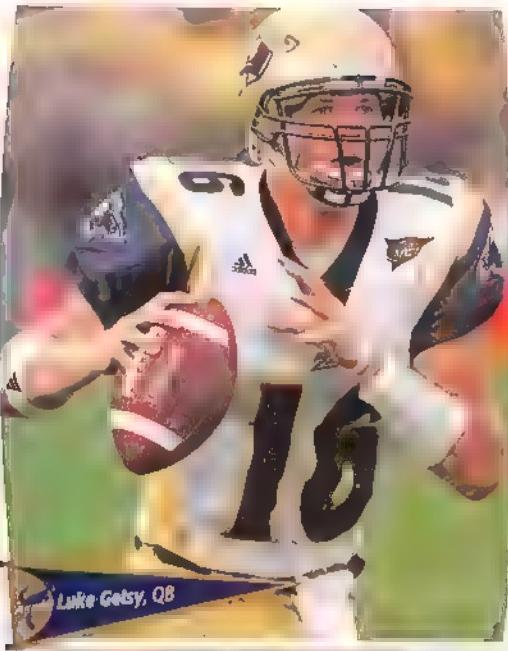
**OFFENSE**

<b>QB</b>	Luke Getsy, Sr., Akron
<b>RB</b>	Garrett Wolfe, Sr., Northern Illinois
<b>RB</b>	Kalvin McRae, Jr., Ohio
<b>OT</b>	Doug Free, Sr., Northern Illinois
<b>OT</b>	John Greco, Jr., Toledo
<b>C</b>	Kory Lichtensteiger, Jr., Bowling Green
<b>OG</b>	Derrick Markray, Sr., Bowling Green
<b>OG</b>	Justin Schneider, Sr., Ball State
<b>WR</b>	Ryne Robinson, Sr., Miami
<b>WR</b>	Eric Deslauriers, Sr., Eastern Michigan
<b>TE</b>	Jake Nordin, Sr., Northern Illinois
<b>TE</b>	Andrew Wellock, Sr., Eastern Michigan

**DEFENSE**

<b>DL</b>	Daniel Bazuin, Sr., Central Michigan
<b>DL</b>	Kevin Howe, Sr., Eastern Michigan
<b>DL</b>	Kilo Gonzalez, Sr., Akron
<b>DL</b>	Daniel Muir, Sr., Kent State
<b>LB</b>	Mike Alston, Sr., Toledo
<b>LB</b>	Matt Muncy, Sr., Ohio
<b>LB</b>	Ameer Ismail, Sr., Western Michigan
<b>DB</b>	John Mackey, Jr., Akron
<b>DB</b>	Joey Card, Sr., Miami
<b>DB</b>	Louis Delmas, Sr., Western Michigan
<b>DB</b>	Nigel Morris, Jr., Toledo
<b>P</b>	Chris Miller, Sr., Ball State

## AKRON



## Akron determined to prove naysayers wrong, repeat as champs

**W**hat a difference a year has made for the Zips.

At this point last season, many wondered if Akron's push for the East Division title in 2004 was a phenomenon or a presage. The Zips answered that question with an exclamation point in 2005, winning the East in a tiebreaker and scoring a last-second touchdown against Northern Illinois to win the MAC Championship game.

While the Zips return eight starters on offense, the loss of two receivers and their leading running back have stripped some of that unit's luster. Much of the burden will fall on quarterback Luke Getsy, who threw for 3,455 yards and 23 touchdowns last season, and an offensive line that returns all five of its starters—four of whom are seniors.

Who will fill the shoes of all-league tailback Brett Biggs? That's a good question, and an important one since Biggs ran for 1,230 yards and caught 65 passes, which was the fourth-highest single-season receiving total in school history.

The candidates include sophomores Dennis Kennedy and Alex Allen, while redshirt freshman Bryant McMillon also might get a shot.

And who will fill the spots of graduated wideouts Domenik Hixon and Jason Montgomery?

### RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** **Mickey Baker**, LB, 5-11, 225  
Junior College All-American should help.

**2** **Andre Boone**, RB, 5-10, 190  
Virginia import can be impact player.

**3** **Mark Jackson**, C, 6-6, 295  
Massive blocker could anchor O-Line.

**4** **Sean Hakes**, QB, 6-3, 200  
Texan enrolled early to get head start.

**5** **David Harvey**, WR, 5-11, 160  
Touted Pennsylvanian productive wideout.



## ZIPS

Stadium: Rubber Bowl (31,000)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	7
2004	8
2003	7
2002	4
2001	4

## ■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ★ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: J.D. Brookhart, 3rd year (13-11)

Career record: 13-11

Assistant coaches: Jim Pry (co-off coord./QBs), Joe Moorhead (co-off coord./WRs), Jim Fleming (def. coord./safeties), Brian Callahan (off. line), Mark Nori (TEs/tackles), Aaron Alford (DBs), Bill Bell (RBs), Dana Chambers (def. line), Mike Dawson (LBs)

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	6	5	4	3
DEFENSE	5	4	3	2
SPECIAL TEAMS	4	3	2	1
COACHING	5	4	3	2

2005 Record

**7-6** | **MAC. 5-3**

(lost to Memphis in the Motor City Bowl, 38-31)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@PENN STATE	
S. 9	@N.C. STATE	
S. 16	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	17-31
S. 23	North Texas	
S. 30	@KENT STATE	35-3
O. 7	@CINCINNATI	
O. 21	Miami (OH)	23-51
O. 28	@TOLEDO	
N. 4	Bowling Green	24-14
N. 9	Buffalo	15-7
N. 16	@OHIO	27-3
N. 24	Western Michigan	

## ► GAME TO WATCH \*

The Zips play five of their first six games on the road, so they can't afford to lose this one to the up-and-coming Chippewas and fall behind early in the East Division race.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/19

## OFFENSE

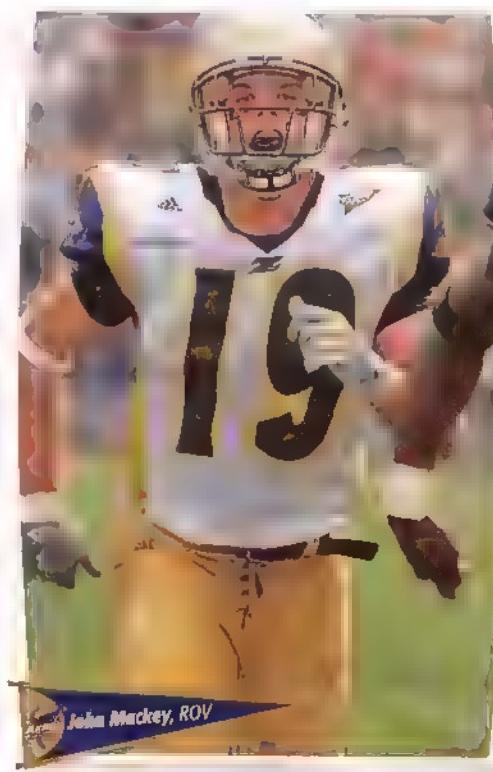
QB	16	Luke Getsy (6-2, 220, Sr.)
FB	33	Joe McDaniel (5-11, 220, So.)
RB	3	Dennis Kennedy (5-11, 209, Sr.)
LT	72	Tim Crouch (6-3, 300, Sr.)
LG	73	Mike Donaldson (6-5, 295, Sr.)
C	63	Andy Wills (6-3, 290, Sr.)
RG	57	Andy Alleman (6-4, 295, Sr.)
RT	74	Chris Kemme (6-6, 290, So.)
TE	84	Kris Kasperek (6-6, 260, Jr.)
WR	12	Jabari Arthur (6-4, 224, Jr.)
WR	17	Brandon Williams (6-1, 180, So.)

## DEFENSE

DT	93	Eric Lively (6-2, 270, So.)
NG	97	Kiki Gonzalez (6-2, 300, Sr.)
DE	99	Jermaine Reid (6-4, 275, Sr.)
BAN	30	Kevin Grant (6-2, 245, So.)
LB	43	Brion Stokes (5-11, 220, Jr.)
LB	44	Bryan Howe (6-0, 242, Jr.)
ROV	19	John Mackey (5-10, 213, Jr.)
CB	20	Reggie Corner (5-9, 175, Sr.)
CB	5	Davanzo Tate (5-10, 185, Jr.)
FS	24	Chris Brown (5-9, 200, Jr.)
SS	10	Chevin Pace (5-10, 185, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	39	Matt Domonkos (5-8, 171, Jr.)
P	16	Andy Hildreth (6-0, 185, Jr.)



TOP TO BOTTOM: MICHAEL HICKIE / ICON; SANJANA DUNES / WIRE IMAGE.COM; HELEN MONTAGUE / CHICAGO TRIBUNE; PHOTOFEST / GETTY IMAGES

OXFORD OHIO

# MIAMI REDHAWKS

2005 Record: 7-4 overall, 5-3 MAC



Second-year Coach Shane Montgomery faces a rebuilding project this season.

No, it has nothing to do with any struggles of last season. The RedHawks had a perfectly respectable 7-4 record and tied for the East Division title.

The rebuilding is the result of losing a whopping 23 lettermen to graduation, including eight All-MAC picks and nine starters on defense.

It all begins at quarterback, where junior Mike Kokal—the only QB on the roster with game experience, with 11 pass attempts last season—will be challenged by redshirt freshman Daniel Raudabaugh and sophomore Jared Elliott.

The offensive line is also in a state of flux after the graduation of three starters. Right tackle Charlie Norden is a three-year starter, while left guard Steve Meister is the other returning lineman with starting experience.

The other skill positions have a good combination of talent and experience. At tailback, Brandon Murphy broke the 1,000-yard barrier to earn second-team All-MAC honors last fall, and Ryne Robinson, who averaged more than 100 receiving yards per game a year ago, leads the wide receivers corps.

But no position needs to be rebuilt as much as the linebacker unit does, where five of the six members were lost. Senior Dontae Wright is the only returnee at a position where freshmen may need to step forward immediately.

The youth of the RedHawk linebackers will also put pressure on the defensive line, anchored by defensive end Craig Mester, and a defensive backfield led by All-MAC second-team performer Joey Card.

The RedHawks do have one unique weapon: one of the best punt returners in NCAA history in Robinson. He needs 261 punt return yards to break the Division I-A career record and has also returned six punts for touchdowns.



PRESEASON RANK:

#2

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	7
2004	▲ 8
2003	■ ▲ 13
2002	7
2001	7

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Shane Montgomery.

2nd year (7-4)

Career record: 7-4

Stadium: Yager Stadium

Capacity: 24,286

Official athletic Web site:

www.muredhawks.com

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A. 31	Northwestern	
S. 9	@PURDUE	
S. 16	Kent State	27-10
S. 23	@SYRACUSE	
S. 30	@CINCINNATI	44-16
O. 7	Northern Illinois	27-38
O. 14	@BUFFALO	54-13
O. 21	@AKRON	51-23
O. 28	Bal. State	
N. 4	@WESTERN MICH.	
N. 11	TOLEDO	14-42
N. 24	Ohio	38-7

## GAME TO WATCH

If the RedHawks can post wins over Northern Illinois and Akron, this nationally televised game probably will determine the East Division winner.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 10  
Lettermen returning/lost: 33/23

## OFFENSE

QB	16	Mike Kokal (6-2, 192, Jr.)
TB	24	Brandon Murphy (5-8, 189, Jr.)
LT	68	Dave DiFranco (6-6, 323, So.)
LG	72	Steve Meisler (6-2, 293, Jr.)
C	53	Steve Kosky (6-4, 273, Sr.)
RG	50	Matt McKeown (6-4, 275, So.)
RT	76	Charlie Norden (6-6, 314, Jr.)
TE	80	Tom Crabtree (6-5, 224, So.)
WR	2	Ryne Robinson (5-10, 169, Sr.)
WR	4	Josh Williams (6-2, 222, Sr.)
WR	81	Patrick O'Bryan (6-1, 200, Jr.)

## DEFENSE

LE	51	Joe Caniglio (6-2, 233, So.)
LT	69	Otto Linwood (6-1, 306, Jr.)
RT	92	Seth Painter (6-2, 254, Sr.)
RE	58	Craig Mester (6-5, 243, Jr.)
OLB	37	Dontae Wright (6-3, 222, Sr.)
MLB	48	Joe Hudson (6-2, 226, So.)
OLB	9	Clayton Mullins (6-2, 219, Jr.)
CB	16	Bryan Roland (5-10, 191, So.)
CB	5	Frank Wiwo (6-3, 179, Sr.)
SS	6	Robbie Wilson (6-0, 209, So.)
FS	1	Joey Card (6-0, 198, Sr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	95	N. Parseghian (6-2, 185, So.)
P	4	J. Richardson (6-1, 187, So.)

BOWLING GREEN, OHIO

# BOWLING GREEN FALCONS



2005 Record: 6-5 overall, 5-3 MAC

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

In recent years, the Falcons have shown the ability to replace one star player with another. For example, when record-setting quarterback Josh Harris graduated, Omar Jacobs replaced him and the Bowling Green offense never skipped a beat.

But this season the Falcons will be challenged to replace all of their top performers who were lost to graduation or early draft entry. Among the shoes to be filled on offense are those of Jacobs, a two-time All-MAC pick; receivers Charles Sharon and Steve Sanders, who combined to catch 58 touchdown passes in their careers; running backs P.J. Pope and B.J. Lane, a pair of three-year performers; and All-MAC offensive tackle Rob Warren. Whew.

Coach Gregg Brandon does have some options, though. Quarterback Anthony Turner gained experience at the position when Jacobs was injured for part of last season, while redshirt freshmen Freddie Barnes and Tony Hunter also will challenge for playing time.

Corey Partridge, Marques Parks and Ruben Ruiz all have started at wide receiver and redshirt junior Dan Macon has waited patiently in the wings to get a chance at tailback.

And the offensive line is experienced and talented, with right guard Derrick Markray and center Kory Lichtensteiger leading the way.

The defense must replace six starters, but it's more important that it makes large improvements after surrendering 44 points or more four times last season.

Defensive end Devon Parks is entering his fourth season as a starter, while defensive tackle Brad Williams is a two-year regular. They'll lead the defensive front. The Falcons will be especially young at linebacker, placing pressure on fifth-year senior Terrel White.

The defensive backfield will be led by free safety Deaudre Perry and honorable-mention Freshman All-American Antonio Smith, who started all 11 games as a true freshman a year ago.

Speaking of freshmen stepping forward, Bowling Green may use true freshmen to handle its place-kicking (Sean Ellis) and punting (Alonso Rojas).

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	6
2004	▲ 8
2003	■ ▲ 11
2002	8
2001	8

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Gregg Brandon.

4th year (26-11)

Career record: 26-11

Stadium: Perry Stadium

Capacity: 23,724

Official athletic Web site:  
www.bgsufalcons.com

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	Wisconsin*	42-56
S. 9	Buffalo	27-7
S. 16	@FLA. INTER.	
S. 23	Kent State	24-14
S. 30	@OHIO	38-14
O. 7	@OHIO STATE	
O. 14	Eastern Mich. gan	
O. 19	@CENTRAL. MICH	
O. 26	@TEMPLE	70-7
N. 4	@AKRON	14-24
N. 15	Miami (OH)	42-14
N. 21	TOLEDO	41-44 (OT)

\* at Cleveland

## GAME TO WATCH

This annual grudge match may decide one division winner—or both.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11

Lettermen returning/lost: 43/23

## OFFENSE

QB	17	Anthony Turner (6-2, 226, r-So.)
TB	5	Dan Macon (6-1, 210, r-Jr.)
LT	71	Drew Nystrom (6-5, 304, r-Jr.)
LG	68	John Lanning (6-4, 285, 5-R.)
C	78	Kory Lichtensteiger (6-3, 305, r-Jr.)
RG	70	Derrick Markray (6-5, 350, Sr.)
RT	73	Kevin Huelsman (6-5, 284, r-Jr.)
TE	88	Sean O'Drobinak (6-4, 262, r-Jr.)
WR	80	Ruben Ruiz (6-4, 247, Sr.)
WR	3	Marques Parks (5-11, 194, r-So.)
WR	1	Corey Partridge (5-11, 187, r-So.)

DE	99	Diyral Briggs (6-4, 216, r-So.)
NG	59	Nick Davis (6-3, 280, r-So.)
DT	92	Brad Williams (6-3, 256, Sr.)
DE	57	Devon Parks (6-3, 252, Sr.)
SAM	30	Enque Dzozier (6-1, 198, r-So.)
MKE	45	Cody Basler (6-3, 225, r-Fr.)
WHL	48	Terrel White (5-10, 224, Sr.)
CB	2	Antonio Smith (5-10, 175, So.)
CB	16	Kenny Lewis (5-11, 185, So.)
FS	24	Deaudre Perry (6-1, 214, r-Jr.)
SS	9	Loren Hargrove (5-11, 204, r-So.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	95	Sean Ellis (6-6, 189, Fr.)
P	4	Alonso Rojas (6-3, 200, Fr.)



ATHENS

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

**OHIO  
BOBCATS**

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, 3-3 MAC

The first eight games of Frank Solich's first season in Athens went well, with the Bobcats upsetting Pittsburgh and posting a 3-2 mark in MAC play.

And then there were the last three games, in which injuries put a damper on those early season successes. Consecutive losses to Toledo, Akron and Miami—the final two coming by a points margin of 65-10—put an exclamation point on Ohio's need to increase its depth.

There are other questions, to be sure. One is at quarterback, where incumbent Austen Everson is being pushed by Illinois transfer Brad Bower and Brandon Jones, who saw action as a true freshman.

Uncertainty also surrounds who will be catching the passes thrown by the winner of that quarterback derby. Will it be speedy Scott Mayle and Justin Fitzgerald, the team's top receivers last season? Or will it be a newcomer such as freshman Chris Garrett or junior-college transfer Chido Nwokocha?

And who will do the blocking after the graduation of two starters on the line? Senior Matt Coppage, a team captain last year, will be expected to anchor a group that had six players start at least once last season.

Some questions, such as who will be featured at tailback in the Bobcats' run-dominated offense, already have been answered. Last year, Kalvin McRae averaged 104.8 yards per game, running for more than 200 yards three times and earning all-league honors.

There also aren't many questions on defense thanks to the return of nine starters, including all three starting linebackers. All-MAC middle linebacker Matt Muncy leads a group whose depth has been bolstered by the move of Michael Brown, Chris Hall and Lee Renfro from the defensive backfield.

Ohio still has plenty of capable secondary players, including cornerback T.J. Wright and safeties Todd Koenig and Tony Ward.

Head coach: Frank Solich, 2nd year (4-7)

Career record: 62-26

**2006 SCHEDULE****DATE OPPONENT**

S. 2 Tennessee-Martin

**S. 9 @ NORTHERN ILLINOIS**

S. 16 @RUTGERS

S. 23 @MISSOURI

S. 30 Bowling Green

O. 7 Western Michigan

O. 14 @ILLINOIS

O. 21 Buffalo

O. 28 @KENT STATE

N. 4 @E. MICHIGAN

N. 16 Akron

N. 24 @MIAMI (OH)

Stadium: Peden Stadium

Capacity: 24,000

Official athletic Web site:

[www.ohiobobcats.com](http://www.ohiobobcats.com)**\* GAME TO WATCH \***

If the Bobcats want to push for an East Division title, they'll have to start strong in their MAC opener against the favorite to win the West.



BUFFALO

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

**BUFFALO  
BULLS**

2005 Record: 1-10 overall, 1-7 MAC

One of the most woebegone teams in Division I-A football is now under the direction of one of the most successful players in college football history.

Coach Turner Gill quarterbacked Nebraska to a national championship appearance in the early 1980s, then was an assistant coach (1992-2004) when the Cornhuskers won national titles in 1994, '95 and '97.

By now Gill probably has figured out he's not in Lincoln anymore.

The Bulls won only once last season and have a 7-49 record in MAC games since entering the league in 1999. They have victories in just 10 of the 69 football games they've played since entering the league.

Last season Buffalo ranked last in the MAC in scoring offense (10.0 points per game) and total offense (279.5 yards per game), but does have eight returning starters.

At quarterback, the choices include Drew Willy, who started eight games as a true freshman last year, and senior Stewart Sampsel, who started the team's first three games before suffering a season-ending broken collarbone.

There are plenty of options at wide receiver. Brett Hamlin led the Bulls with 38 catches as a true freshman and Evan Wallace and Terrance Breaux also have experience.

Buffalo also has alternatives in the backfield, where the returnees include seniors Steven King and Jared Patterson, and 270-pound sophomore fullback Philip Warren, who saw action at tailback as a freshman.

The biggest question Gill must answer is who will start on both sides of the line. The Bulls lost three offensive linemen, as well as all four starters on the defensive line.

Seniors Ramon Guzman and Jeff Bublavi will anchor the defense at linebacker, while three experienced defensive backs return in sophomore Gerald Jackson and juniors Jesse Imes and Kareem Byrom, who had a team-leading 85 tackles last season.

Head coach: Turner Gill, 1st year

**2006 SCHEDULE****DATE OPPONENT**

A. 31 Temple

S. 9 @BOWLING GREEN

S. 16 @N. ILLINOIS

S. 23 @AUBURN

O. 7 Ball State

O. 14 Miami (OH)

O. 21 @OHIO

O. 28 @BOSTON COLLEGE

N. 4 Kent State

N. 9 @AKRON

N. 18 @WISCONSIN

N. 24 Central Michigan

Stadium: University of Buffalo Stadium

Capacity: 29,013

Official athletic Web site:

[www.buffalobulls.com](http://www.buffalobulls.com)**\* GAME TO WATCH \***

If the Bulls don't beat the Owls, an 0-4 start is probable since road losses at Bowling Green, Northern Illinois and Auburn await.



KENT OHIC

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

**KENT STATE  
GOLDEN FLASHES**

2005 Record: 1-10 overall, 0-8 MAC

After winning their last four games in 2004, the Golden Flashes returned to form last season. Kent State was winless in the MAC and lost its final nine games in a row in a season marred by injuries.

As a result, the Flashes gave last year's freshman class a chance to play right away, as 14 true freshmen saw action, the second-highest number to play for a team in Division I-A football last year.

There still are questions on both sides of the ball. On offense the biggest is at running back, where the top returnee, sophomore Jerry Flowers, ran for just 304 yards last season. Expect Michigan State transfer Tony Howard and redshirt freshman Eugene Jarvis to earn the starting spot before the season begins.

The rest of the offense features a great deal of experience. Michael Machen returns at quarterback and will throw to a veteran group of receivers that includes Najah Pruden, Marcus Hill, Cameron Bobb and Brian Bell.

Kent State's offensive line is also experienced, returning four starters from a year ago. Injuries at the position the last couple of years have given youngsters such as 6-7, 315-pound left tackle Augustus Parrish the repetitions to build depth there.

The biggest question on defense is at linebacker, where two starters were lost to graduation. Another starter as a true freshman, Stevon Moss, is expected to man the middle.

Kent State's deepest area is the defensive backfield, where four returning starters are joined by Andre Kirkland, who returns to safety after playing linebacker last fall. The Flashes have a pair of experienced cornerbacks in Usama Young and Jack Williams.

Second team All-MAC performer Daniel Muir leads the defensive line, along with fellow senior Bruce Rice.

Head coach: Doug Martin, 3rd year (6-16)

Career record: 61-15

**2006 SCHEDULE****DATE OPPONENT**

A. 31 Minnesota

S. 9 @ARMY

S. 16 @MIAMI (OH)

S. 23 @BOWLING GREEN

S. 30 Akron

O. 7 @TEMPLE

O. 14 Toledo

O. 28 Ohio

N. 4 @BUFFALO

N. 11 @VIRGINIA TECH

N. 18 Eastern Michigan

N. 24 @BALL STATE

Stadium: Dix Stadium

Capacity: 29,287

Official athletic Web site:

[www.kentstatesports.com](http://www.kentstatesports.com)**\* GAME TO WATCH \***

For the first time in school history, the Golden Flashes will host a Big Ten school when the Golden Gophers, led by former Kent State Coach Glen Mason, invade Dix Stadium.

# NORTHERN ILLINOIS

**5-YEAR WINS TREND**


## Hungry like Wolfe, Huskies should have lots to howl about this season

Is this the year the Huskies finally reach the summit?

Last year, Northern Illinois saw a victory snatched from its hands in the final 10 seconds of the MAC Championship Game, continuing a spooky string of near misses for the program. For example, NIU had to win the West Division outright just to reach the championship game for the first time last season, after tying for the MAC West crown in 2001, '02 and '04.

Of course, when you remember that Coach Joe Novak won only one of his first 21 games and was 3-30 in his first three years at DeKalb, you realize that Novak and the Huskies know a little something about patience.

There are holes to be filled this year, to be certain. On offense, the big question is an offensive line that lost three starters. Senior tackle Doug Free, a two-time All-MAC pick, gives Northern Illinois a foundation upon which to build.

There's also a question at quarterback, but there are two good answers in Phil Horvath, who threw for more than 2,000 yards before a season-ending broken arm, and Dan Nicholson,



PRESEASON RANK:

# 1

**POWER RATINGS**

OFFENSE	
DEFENSE	
SPECIAL TEAMS	
COACHING	

2005 Record: **7-5**MAC **6-2****2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
9/2	@OHIO STATE	
9/9	Ohio	
9/16	Buffalo	
9/23	Indiana State	
9/30	@BALL STATE	17-31
10/7	@MIAMI (OH)	38-27
10/14	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	42-7
10/21	Temple	
10/28	@IOWA	
11/4	Toledo	35-17
11/11	Central Michigan	31-28
11/18	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	24-8

**GAME TO WATCH**

*Last season the Huskies lost at Michigan and Northwestern, but don't scoff at NIU's chances here. In 2003 they beat Alabama—in Tuscaloosa.*

**PROJECTED STARTERS**

Starters returning: 13  
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/18

**OFFENSE**

QB	3	Phil Horvath (6-3, 197, Sr.)
TB	1	Garrett Wolfe (5-7, 173, Sr.)
LT	62	Doug Free (6-7, 302, Sr.)
LG	70	Chris Acevedo (6-5, 304, Jr.)
C	50	Eddie Adamski (6-2, 265, Fr.)
RG	61	Matt Rogers (6-4, 277, Sr.)
RT	60	Jon Brost (6-6, 296, So.)
TE	86	Jake Nordin (6-3, 258, Jr.)
SE	14	Jarret Carter (6-3, 200, Sr.)
FL	7	Britt Davis (6-2, 195, So.)
WR	2	Matt Simon (6-2, 195, So.)

**DEFENSE**

LE	34	Ken West (6-1, 238, Sr.)
NT	92	Adam Schroeder (6-5, 273, Jr.)
DT	63	Zack Holycross (6-7, 284, Jr.)
RE	51	Larry English (6-3, 236, So.)
SLB	33	Keenan Blalark (5-10, 228, Sr.)
MLB	53	Tim McCarthy (6-0, 226, So.)
WLB	38	David Bryant (5-10, 193, r-Fr.)
CB	11	Alvah Hansbro (5-10, 170, Sr.)
CB	12	Adriel Hansbro (5-10, 176, Sr.)
SS	8	Mark Reiter (6-1, 191, Jr.)
FS	35	Dustin Utschig (5-10, 189, Sr.)

**SPECIALISTS**

PK	25	Chris Nendick (5-11, 168, Jr.)
P	45	Andy Dittbenner (6-1, 192, So.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

# HUSKIES

Stadium: Huskie Stadium (28,000)



his replacement, who guided the Huskies to three critical late-season wins.

But who will catch the passes that are thrown? Tight end Jake Nordin is a solid option, while wide receivers Britt Davis and Jarret Carter show promise.

There's no question who will handle the bulk of the rushing attempts: Garrett Wolfe, who is the nation's top returning running back after averaging 175.6 yards per game a year ago.

The defense also has questions, but returns plenty of answers in seven returning starters spread evenly over the field. The deepest position is in the defensive backfield, where twins Adriel and Alvah Hansbro return at cornerback and Dustin Utschig is back at free safety.

The Huskies' linebackers will be young, but senior Keenan Blalark (95 tackles) returns to help lead sophomores Tim McCarthy and Phil Brown. Redshirt freshman David Bryant will also join them.

On the line, nine lettermen return, led by ends Ken West and Larry English.

**Head coach: Joe Novak, 11th year (54-60)**

**Career record: 54-60**

**Assistant coaches:** Sam Pittman (off. line/asst. head coach), John Bond (off. coord./QBs), Greg Bower (TEs), Cornelius Cruz (WRs), Thomas Hammock (RBs), Denny Doornbos (def. coord./LBs), Jeff Phelps (def. line), John Hauser (secondary), Mike Sabock (recruiting coord.)

**RATING THE RECRUITS**

**1** **Ricky Crider, RB, 5-9, 185**  
*Fills need for quality tailback.*

**2** **Billy Lowe, QB, 6-3, 214**  
*Southpaw led Florida team to 15-0 record.*

**3** **Jason Onyebeugu, OL, 6-2, 305**  
*Indiana all-state arrives from a top-notch program.*

**4** **Panan Tense, OL, 6-4, 315**  
*Massive blocker with tons of potential.*

**5** **Mike Krause, C, 6-3, 270**  
*Wisconsin all-state choice should contribute early.*





TOLEDO, OHIO

PRESEASON RANK.

#2

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	8
2004	9
2003	8
2002	9
2001	TD

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Tom Amstutz,  
6th year (45-18)  
**Career record:** 45-18  
**Stadium:** Glass Bowl  
**Capacity:** 26,248  
**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.utrockets.com](http://www.utrockets.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A. 31 @IOWA STATE	
S. 9 @W MICHIGAN	56-23
S. 15 Kansas	
S. 23 McNeese State	
S. 30 @PITTSBURGH	
O. 7 Central Michigan	17-21
O. 14 @KENT STATE	
O. 21 @E MICHIGAN	30-3
O. 28 Akron	
N. 7 @NORTHERN ILLINOIS	17-35
N. 14 Ball State	34-14
N. 2 Bowling Green	44-41 (OT)

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

It's highly probable the MAC West Champ—and the best team in the league—will be determined by this game

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/12

## OFFENSE

QB 11	Clint Cochran (6-3, 205, So.)
RB 33	Jalen Parmele (6-0, 222, Jr.)
LT 79	John Greco (6-5, 318, Jr.)
LG 64	David Perkins (6-2, 308, Jr.)
C 70	Hassan Adebessin (6-0, 300, Sr.)
RG 69	Jesse Anderson (6-4, 300, Sr.)
RT 65	Jerry Aguwa (6-4, 295, Sr.)
TE 91	Chris Hopkins (6-5, 255, Sr.)
WR 80	Steve Odum (5-10, 170, Sr.)
WR 82	Nick Moore (6-4, 192, So.)
WR 5	Trumaine Smith (6-4, 211, So.)

## DEFENSE

DE 92	Sean Williamson (6-2, 265, Jr.)
DT 96	J.P. Bekasiak (6-6, 296, Sr.)
DT 87	Patrick Clark (6-4, 266, Jr.)
OLB 44	Mike Alston (6-2, 212, Sr.)
ILB 54	Keith Forestal (6-3, 215, So.)
ILB 47	Steven Morrison (6-2, 220, Jr.)
DLB 15	M. Chamberlain (6-2, 208, Sr.)
CB 21	Nigel Morris (6-0, 181, Jr.)
CB 36	Keiron Brown (5-11, 176, So.)
SS 34	Lester Richmond (6-1, 184, Fr.)
FS 28	Tyrrell Herbert (6-2, 190, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK 14	Mike Kispinsky (5-10, 185, Jr.)
P 41	Brett Kern (6-3, 195, Jr.)

## TOLEDO ROCKETS

2005 Record: 9-3 overall, 6-2 MAC  
(beat UTEP in the GMAC Bowl, 45-13)



For the first time in three seasons, the Rockets will need to find a quarterback after Bruce Gradkowski left for the NFL.

If Toledo can find a capable replacement for him, there is plenty of elements left to earn the program its 13th straight winning season.

Eight starters return on offense, including first-team All-MAC tackle John Greco and two other members of last year's offensive line.

The receiving corps also returns virtually intact, led by Steve Odom, Andrew Hawkins, Nick Moore and all-league tight end Chris Hopkins.

And while top running back Trinity Dawson graduated, the Rockets still have plenty of options here. Burly Scooter McDougle returns after redshirting, while Jalen Parmele has two years experience and Ray Williams, a former Ohio Mr. Football, is expected to be eligible.

That means there is enough talent to lessen the pressure that will surround Gradkowski's replacement at quarterback, which probably will be backup sophomore Clint Cochran. He will face challenges, though, coming from redshirt freshman Brandon Summers and sophomore John Goolsby.

On defense, the Rockets welcome back seven starters, including all six members on the defensive line who saw playing time.

While two starters were lost in the linebacker corps, first-team All-MAC pick Mike Alston returns after earning the GMAC Bowl's Defensive MVP award.

The defensive backfield also has holes, but juniors Nigel Morris and Tyrrell Herbert are solid blocks which to build upon.

Perhaps the most important returnee here is Defensive Coordinator Tim Rose, who coached the Rockets to the MAC's top spot in both total defense (only allowing 316.8 yards per game) and scoring defense (21.8 points per game) in his first year at Toledo after the unit had floundered in previous seasons.



PRESEASON RANK.

#3

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	8
2004	4
2003	3
2002	4
2001	3

■ CONFERENCE TITLE    ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Brian Kelly,  
3rd year (10-12)  
**Career record:** 10-12  
**Stadium:** Kelly/Shorts Stadium  
**Capacity:** 30,199  
**Official athletic Web site:**  
[www.cmuchippewas.com](http://www.cmuchippewas.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE OPPONENT	RESULT
A. 31 Boston College	
S. 9 @MICHIGAN	
S. 16 Akron	31-17
S. 23 @E MICHIGAN	20-23 (OT)
S. 30 @KENTUCKY	21-17
O. 7 @TOLEDO	31-24 (OT)
O. 14 Ball State	
O. 19 Bowling Green	
N. 4 @TEMPLE	
N. 10 Western Michigan	24-31
N. 17 @N. ILLINOIS	28-31
N. 24 @BUFFALO	

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Chippewa fans won't have to wait long to see if their team is bowl-worthy, as the nationally televised home opener is against the 2005 MPC Computers Bowl champ.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16  
Lettermen returning/lost: 33/19

## OFFENSE

QB 18	Brian Brunner (6-2, 236, So.)
RB 34	Ontario Sneed (5-11, 203, So.)
LT 73	Joe Staley (6-5, 299, Sr.)
LG 60	Adam Benke (6-5, 314, So.)
C 78	Drew Mormino (6-4, 301, Sr.)
RG 69	Eric Tunney (6-3, 290, Jr.)
RT 74	Andrew Hartline (6-5, 285, So.)
TE 83	Andre Moore (6-2, 221, So.)
WR 88	Obed Cetoute (6-4, 212, Jr.)
WR 2	Jemmy Jasmin (5-8, 162, Jr.)
WR 3	Damien Linson (5-11, 184, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE 93	Daniel Bazuin (6-3, 269, Sr.)
DT 94	Steven Friend (6-2, 284, Jr.)
NG 92	Ronnie Ekdah (6-2, 291, So.)
DE 58	De'Onte Burnam (6-0, 253, Jr.)
DLB 6	Isaac Brown (5-11, 204, Sr.)
LB 41	Thomas Keith (5-11, 239, Jr.)
LB 46	Doug Kress (6-1, 240, Sr.)
CB 7	Pacino Horne (5-11, 191, Sr.)
CB 36	Terrance Robinson (5-6, 181, Sr.)
SS 22	Aaron Carr (6-1, 184, Fr.)
FS 10	Curtis Cutts (6-0, 210, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK 28	Rick Aebreski (6-0, 151, So.)
P 35	Tony Mikulec (5-8, 214, Jr.)

## CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHIPPEWAS

2005 Record: 6-5 overall, 5-3 MAC

Coach Brian Kelly's program grew in fits and starts last season.

The Chippewas posted wins over Miami, Akron and Toledo, then gave a scare to Northern Illinois in early November. But Central Michigan also lost to Eastern Michigan and wasn't able to complete its comeback against the Huskies at home.

Will Central Michigan take another step forward this season under Kelly, who developed the championship Division II program at Grand Valley State?

To do so, the Chippewas will need to replace four starters on each side of the ball. On offense, the biggest question is at quarterback, where Brian Brunner is ahead of redshirt freshman Dan LeFevour.

There's a good mix of experience and depth at the other offensive positions. Ontario Sneed and Anthony Boykins give the Chips a 1-2 punch at tailback, while Damien Linson and Obed Cetoute are experienced wideouts.

The offensive line also returns four starters, led by seniors Joe Staley and Drew Mormino.

On defense, last year's leaders all return. The biggest name is defensive end Daniel Bazuin, the 2005 MAC Defensive Player of the Year who led Division I-A football in tackles for loss with 26.5.

The Chippewas also are strong at linebacker with the return of two all-league performers in Thomas Keith and Isaac Brown.

Both the line and linebackers will need to be strong to support a young defensive backfield, which may include some true freshmen—12 defensive backs were signed as part of the Chippewas 26 man recruiting class.





KALAMAZOO

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

## WESTERN MICHIGAN BRONCOS

2005 Record: 7-4 overall, 5-3 MAC

Last year the Broncos rebounded from a 1-10 season in 2004 to finish 7-4, including a 5-3 record in MAC play. That turnaround was the largest about-face in league history.

This year the real work begins.

Western Michigan suffered key losses on offense, including a pair of NFL draft picks in wide receiver Greg Jennings and tight end Tony Scheffler, 1,000-yard rusher Trovon Riley and lineman Mark Ottney.

But the most interesting question is who will quarterback the Broncos. The presumption is that the job belongs to Ryan Cubit, who started the first three games before suffering a season-ending injury.

His primary competition comes from sophomore Tim Hiller, who stepped in for Cubit and performed so well he was named 2005 MAC Freshman of the Year.

Possible receiving targets include Joe Chapple at wide receiver and tight end Brandon Ledbetter, while Mark Bonds is the leader to take over for Riley at tailback, but will be pushed by Kirk Elsworth.

The offensive line also has plenty of returnees, led by senior Dominic Moran and center Robbie Krutilla.

Meanwhile the defense returns both quantity and quality, with nine returning starters and 12 of the team's top 13 tacklers coming back. On the line the top returnees are tackle Nick Varcadipane, a Freshman All-American last season, and ends Anthony Belmonte and Matt Ludeman.

At linebacker, the Broncos feature a pair of standouts in Ameer Ismail, an All-MAC choice last season, and Paul Tithof, a leader who was injured much of last season.

The defensive backfield includes last year's leading tackler, Antwain Allen, and All-MAC performer Louis Delmas.

Head coach: Bill Cubit, 2nd year (7-4)

Career record: 41-22-1

### 2006 SCHEDULE

#### DATE OPPONENT

S. 2 @ ND ANA

S. 5 @ MICHIGAN

S. 16 @ VIRGINIA

S. 23 Temple

S. 7 @ OHIO

O. 14 Northern Illinois

O. 21 @ BALL STATE

O. 28 Eastern Michigan

N. 4 Miami (OH)

N. 10 @ C. MICHIGAN

N. 18 @ FLOR DA STATE

N. 24 @ AKRON

**Stadium:** Waldo Stadium  
**Capacity:** 30,200  
**Official athletic Web site:** [www.wmubroncos.com](http://www.wmubroncos.com)

### GAME TO WATCH

The home opener will give the Broncos a quick gauge on where they stand in comparison to one of the West's top teams.



MUNCIE, IND.

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

## BALL STATE CARDINALS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, 4-4 MAC



Will the Ball State team that takes the field in 2006 resemble the 2005 squad that lost six of its first seven games last year and was outscored 326-129, with 60 of its points coming in a five-overtime game?

Or will it more closely remind fans of the Cardinals who finished the season 3-1, beating division champions Northern Illinois and Akron along the way?

The answer to that question largely rests in the hands of 15 returning starters, including 10 on offense.

Ball State has experience at quarterback in fifth-year senior Joey Lynch, who will throw to returning wideouts Louis Johnson and Terry Moss, as well as tight end Michael Steinhaus. And all five starters return on an offensive line led by three-year letterman Justin Schneider.

The only starter lost was leading rusher Charles Wynn. But the Cardinals have depth at this position, too, thanks to the return of B.J. Hill and Larry Bostic.

Only five starters are back on defense, but three of those returnees are at linebacker. Bryant Haines and Brad Selss finished one-two on the team in tackles last season and are joined by Wendell Brown.

Strong safety Erik Keys will anchor the defensive backfield, while nose tackle William Wise is the only starter on the defensive line.

The Cardinals also have a weapon on special teams in punter Chris Miller, who was named first-team All-MAC as a freshman last season after averaging almost 42.9 yards per punt.

Head coach: Brady Hoke, 4th year (10-24)

Career record: 10-24

### 2006 SCHEDULE

#### DATE OPPONENT

A. 31 Eastern Michigan

S. 9 Indiana

S. 16 @ PURDUE

S. 23 North Dakota State

S. 30 Northern Illinois

O. 7 @ BUFFALO

O. 14 @ C. MICHIGAN

O. 21 Western Michigan

O. 28 @ MIAMI (OH)

N. 4 @ MICHIGAN

N. 14 @ TOLEDO

N. 24 Kent State

**Stadium:** Ball State Stadium  
**Capacity:** 22,500  
**Official athletic Web site:** [www.ballstatesports.com](http://www.ballstatesports.com)

### GAME TO WATCH

The Cardinals open with a league game they must win if they hope to push for a division title. The fact that four of their first five games are at home adds to the urgency of this contest.



YPSILANTI

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

## EASTERN MICHIGAN EAGLES

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, 3-5 MAC

Yes ... yes ... the Eagles finished at the bottom of the MAC's West Division last season. But that finish should come with an asterisk: EMU's 3-5 record included a pair of one-point losses and would have been good for fourth in the East.

There are standouts at several positions that may help Eastern Michigan move up in the standings—and several questions that may hold the Eagles back.

One of those questions is at quarterback, where Tyler Jones is the favorite to replace the graduated Matt Bohnet. Jones will be challenged by redshirt freshmen Andy Schmitt and Dontayo Gage.

Another question is at tailback, where the options include senior Pierre Walker, who received a medical redshirt last season, and two runners who saw action as true freshmen in Dwayne Harrison and Tim Conner.

The receiving corps also has depth with 2004 All-MAC performer Eric Deslauriers, Travis Lewis and Trumaine Riley, who also is a threat on special teams.

The defense will feature experience both on the line and at linebacker. All-MAC selection Kevin Howe will anchor the line, as will defensive tackles Jason Jones and Josh Hunt.

Middle linebacker Daniel Holtzclaw earned Freshman All-America honors last season thanks to five interceptions and 91 tackles and is flanked by fellow starters Michael Richardson and Darren Matthews.

The question mark on defense is in the secondary, where three starters were lost to graduation. The lone returnee is Duan Bracey, who is capable of playing any of the four defensive back spots.

The Eagles also have a special-teams weapon in placekicker Andrew Wellock, a finalist for the Lou Groza Award in 2004. The senior converted 18 of 25 field-goal attempts last year, with a long of 52 yards.

Head coach: Jeff Genyk, 3rd year (8-14)

Career record: 8-14

### 2006 SCHEDULE

#### DATE OPPONENT

A. 31 @ BALL STATE

S. 9 @ MICHIGAN STATE

S. 16 @ NORTHWESTERN

S. 23 Central Michigan

S. 30 @ LA-LAFAYETTE

O. 14 @ BOWLING GREEN

O. 21 Toledo

O. 28 @ W. MICHIGAN

N. 4 Ohio

N. 11 Navy

N. 18 @ KENT STATE

N. 24 Northern Illinois

**Stadium:** Rynearson Stadium  
**Capacity:** 30,200  
**Official athletic Web site:** [www.emueagles.com](http://www.emueagles.com)

### GAME TO WATCH

The Eagles will play five of their first six games on the road, so getting a home win over their in-state rivals will have extra significance.



Predicted order of finish

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STOCK UPp. 138  
STOCK UPp. 138  
STOCK DOWNp. 139  
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STOCK UP

## Stability is the new watchword in the Sun Belt, but this league needs a big non-conference win

By TOMMY HICKS, Mobile (Ala.) Press-Register

There's something new in the Sun Belt Conference: stability. Still in its infancy as a Division I-A football conference, the league has changed its membership roster in revolving door fashion. But the 2006 season features the same eight-team lineup as the 2005 campaign.

That doesn't mean the Sun Belt has answered all of its questions. There is still a lot of work to do in that area. The league still needs one of its teams—actually more than one, but it would be a start—to produce a win over a high-profile opponent. There have a handful of victories over teams from more prominent conferences, but not the head-shaking, attention-grabbing victory that would attract attention to that team and give the Sun Belt a much-needed boost. There have been plenty of chances in the past. The schedules of Sun Belt teams feature many games against such opponents—almost exclusively on the road and usually for the type of guaranteed money that is of great importance to that school's athletic budget—and there are more opportunities this season.

Most Sun Belt teams picked up another big-name opponent with the extra regular-season game allowed this season. Among those high-profile opponents are

defending national champion Texas, Texas A&M, Alabama, Auburn, South Carolina, Clemson, Miami, Oklahoma, Florida State, LSU, Arkansas and Louisville.

North Texas' 25-game winning streak in league games was halted last season, as was the Mean Green's string of Sun Belt crowns. The end—it had won the first four league titles—came rather rudely, with North Texas finishing 2-5 in conference games a year ago despite having the nation's top rushers the previous two seasons (Patrick Cobbs in 2003 and Jamario Thomas in 2004) in the same backfield.

In fact, the league was split into three groups. Arkansas State, Louisiana-Lafayette and Louisiana-Monroe all finished with 5-2 Sun Belt records, with Florida International, Troy and Middle Tennessee bunched together at 3-4, and Florida Atlantic joining North Texas at 2-5. This season could offer the same type of finish, with at least half the league expected to have a legitimate opportunity to claim the crown.

The addition of FIU and FAU has forced the remaining teams in the Sun Belt to improve their recruiting and opened up a gateway to the talent-rich state of Florida.

## RATING THE PLAYERS:

<b>Fastest receiver</b>	Johnny Quinn, North Texas
<b>Best hands</b>	Chandler Williams, WR, FIU
<b>Best passing QB</b>	Josh Padrick, FIU
<b>Best running QB</b>	Michael Desormeaux, Louisiana-Lafayette

<b>Most elusive RB</b>	Jamario Thomas, North Texas
<b>Best instincts</b>	Keyonvis Bouie, LB, FIU
<b>Best athlete</b>	Johnny Quinn, WR, North Texas
<b>Best under pressure</b>	Jerry Babb, QB, Louisiana-Lafayette

<b>Top NFL prospect</b>	Keyonvis Bouie, LB, FIU
<b>Top impact freshman</b>	Cornelius Williams, WR, Troy
<b>Hardest hitter</b>	Tyrell Johnson, S, Arkansas State
<b>Biggest underachiever</b>	Clint Marks, QB, Middle Tennessee

## THINGS TO WATCH:

1 Will a Sun Belt team manage to produce a quality win against a big-time team? League teams are playing several high-profile schools, including Texas, Alabama, Louisville, Auburn, LSU, Florida State, Oklahoma, Clemson, Texas A&M and Miami. The Sun Belt still needs an attention-grabbing victory.

2 What role, if any, will the use of instant replay have in the league? Only two Sun Belt teams (North Texas, Lafayette) tinkered with instant replay last season, and only on a very limited basis. This season, instant replay will be used by every team in every game.

3 How quickly will FIU and FAU become contenders in the league? Perhaps this season. Both schools enjoy the benefits of being located in a state with one of the deepest talent pools in the country.

4 Will North Texas falter again or find its way back into league contention? Jamario Thomas won't have to share time with Patrick Cobbs this season, and that might help, but the Mean Green's fall from the only team to win a Sun Belt title to a 2-5 league mark was dramatic.

5 Can new Coach Rick Stockstill turn things around at Middle Tennessee? Since 2001, the Blue Raiders have gone 13-15. Troubles meeting the new academic standards established by the NCAA led Middle to sign just 14 players in its recent recruiting class.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

1. **TROY:** The Trojans used JUCO transfers to fill immediate needs, but signed a solid class that includes QB Omar Haugabook and WR Cornelius Williams.

2. **FLORIDA ATLANTIC:** Quarterback Eli Cranor of Russellville, Ark., leads a good group. Only two signees aren't from Florida.

3. **FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL:** Coach Don Strock had several vacancies to fill and did so, leaning toward linemen and running backs.

4. **LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE:** Junior-colege Ols Damian Jones and Hildebrand Ramos will be counted on to help soon.

5. **LOUISIANA MONROE:** Late signee Demetric Ogletree, a running back from Forsyth, Ga., is a find.

6. **ARKANSAS STATE:** The Indians continued a string of good signing classes, adding Memphis-area DBs Marquette Williams and Marlon Douglas.

7. **NORTH TEXAS:** The hard times continue for the Mean Green, though it did snag four transfers (three JUCOs) for quick help.

8. **MIDDLE TENNESSEE:** The NCAA's new academic standards led to a loss of scholarships and Middle signed just 14 players.

## STREET & SMITH'S ALL-SUN BELT TEAM

### OFFENSE

<b>QB</b>	Josh Padrick, Sr., FIU
<b>RB</b>	Janario Thomas, Jr., North Texas
<b>RB</b>	Tyrell Fenroy, So., Louisiana-Lafayette
<b>WR</b>	Johnny Quinn, Sr., North Texas
<b>WR</b>	Chandler Williams, Sr., FIU
<b>TE</b>	Samuel Smith, Sr., FIU
<b>OL</b>	Brandon Cox, Sr., Louisiana-Lafayette
<b>OL</b>	Jesse Newman, Jr., Louisiana-Lafayette
<b>OL</b>	Dylan Lineberry, Sr., North Texas
<b>OL</b>	Tanner Jenkins, Sr., Arkansas State
<b>OL</b>	Germayle Franklin, Sr., Mid. Tennessee
<b>PK</b>	Greg Whibbs, Jr., Troy

### DEFENSE

<b>DL</b>	Frank Lloyd, Sr., Troy
<b>DL</b>	Jeremiah Chapman, Jr., North Texas
<b>DL</b>	Anthony Hills, Sr., Louisiana-Lafayette
<b>LB</b>	Devrett Wade, Sr., Arkansas State
<b>LB</b>	Andre Clark, So., FAU
<b>LB</b>	Keyonvis Bouie, Sr., FIU
<b>LB</b>	Philip Graves, Sr., North Texas
<b>DB</b>	Bradley Robinson, Jr., Mid. Tennessee
<b>DB</b>	Chaz Williams, Jr., Louisiana-Monroe
<b>DB</b>	Kevin Payne, Sr., Louisiana-Monroe
<b>DB</b>	Aaron Weathers, Jr., North Texas
<b>P</b>	Colby Smith, Sr., Middle Tennessee

LAFAYETTE

# LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE RAGIN' CAJUNS

2005 Record: 6-5 overall, 5-2 Sun Belt

Based on its finish to the 2005 season—winning its final five games after a 1-5 start—Lafayette heads into the 2006 season as the hottest team in the Sun Belt. It is expected to have quite a carryover. The Ragin' Cajuns had the best scoring offense, best rushing offense and best total offense in the league, while also leading the Sun Belt in red zone offense, first downs, time of possession and third-down conversions.

Armed with Jerry Babb and Michael Desormeaux at quarterback, Tyrell Fenroy at running back and linemen Jesse Newman and Brandon Cox—all of whom return this year—the Ragin' Cajuns are expected to make things tough for opponents again.

Defensively, Lafayette was no pushover, finishing third in the league in total defense and sacks, with end Anthony Hills and linebackers Mark Risher and Brenton Burkhalter leading the way. They'll be back this year, too.

The stage is set for Lafayette to make a strong run at the Sun Belt title. Last season, it finished in a three-way tie with Arkansas State and Louisiana-Monroe with a 5-2 Sun Belt record. Arkansas State was the last team to beat the Cajuns (39-36 on the road).

In Lafayette's defense, there's a lot more going for this team than carryover. Coach Rickey Bustle has shown improvement in each of the four previous seasons at the helm, and the roster has grown deeper and more talented each year. This team can score and score often and it has developed a chemistry that is capable of making stops when most needed on defense.

At quarterback, Babb and Desormeaux provide a nice contrast in styles that keeps opposing teams off-balance.

Babb, the most accurate passer in school history, connected on 62.2 percent of his throws last season for three touchdowns and 859 yards and was intercepted just three times.

Desormeaux chipped in a 5.6 yards-per-carry average and passed for another 597 yards (53 percent).

As a freshman, Fenroy led the league's best rushing attack by collecting 1,053 yards, 5.9 yards a carry and 12 touchdowns. Those numbers earned him Freshman-of-the-Year honors in the Sun Belt and set a school record for rushing yards in a season.

On defense, the top four tacklers return.



PRESEASON RANK:

#1

## 3-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	6
2004	4
2003	4
2002	3
2001	2

CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Rickey Bustle, 5th year (17-29)

Career record: 17-29

Stadium: Cajun Field

Capacity: 31,000

Official athletic Web site:  
[www.ragincajuns.com](http://www.ragincajuns.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@LSU	
S. 9	@TEXAS A&M	
S. 16	McNeese State	
S. 30	Eastern Michigan	10-31
O. 7	@HOU STON	10-28
O. 18	@FLA. ATLANTIC	28-7
O. 28	Middle Tennessee	13-10
N. 4	@TROY	31-20 (OT)
N. 11	North Texas	31-28
N. 18	@FLA. INTERNATIONAL	28-7
N. 25	Arkansas State	36-39
D. 2	Louisiana-Monroe	54-21

## GAME TO WATCH

*The Cajuns will have played two league games at this time, but this is the first of five straight against tough Sun Belt foes and the Trojans figure to be in the title hunt too.*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/13

## OFFENSE

QB	15	Jerry Babb (6-3, 218, Sr.)
RB	25	Chester Johnson (5-10, 205, Sr.)
RB	32	Tyrell Fenroy (5-10, 185, So.)
LT	67	Jesse Newman (6-4, 305, Jr.)
LG	74	Tim Falter (6-4, 310, So.)
C	58	Junior Ramos (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RG	56	Will Chance (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RT	72	Brandon Cox (6-7, 330, Sr.)
TE	88	Erik Jones (6-4, 235, So.)
WR	18	Derrick Smith (6-1, 185, So.)
WR	5	Jason Chery (5-11, 180, So.)

## DEFENSE

DE	91	Anthony Hills (6-4, 240, Sr.)
DE	90	Rodney Hardaway (6-3, 230, Jr.)
DT	94	Korey Raymond (6-4, 290, Jr.)
DT	65	Marshall Delesdemier (6-0, 276, Sr.)
LB	4	Mark Risher (6-1, 230, Jr.)
LB	43	Brenton Burkhalter (6-0, 230, So.)
LB	52	Tré Green (5-11, 215, Sr.)
LCB	26	Kyle Ward (6-2, 188, Jr.)
RBC	2	Michael Adams (5-8, 170, Sr.)
SS	23	Johnny Fellers (5-11, 190, Sr.)
FS	8	Lamar Morgan (6-2, 210, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	48	Drew Edmiston (6-4, 195, So.)
P	17	Brit Franel (6-1, 185, So.)

TROY, ALA.

# TROY TROJANS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, 3-4 Sun Belt



PRESEASON RANK:

#2

## 3-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	7
2003	6
2002	4
2001	7

CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL  
\* NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Larry Blakeney, 16th year (119-60-1)

Career record: 119-60-1

Stadium: Movie Gallery Stadium

Capacity: 30,000

Official athletic Web site:  
[www.troytrojans.com](http://www.troytrojans.com)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	Alabama State	
S. 9	@FLORIDA STATE	
S. 16	@GEORGIA TECH	
S. 23	@NEBRASKA	
S. 30	@UAB	7-27
O. 14	Louisiana-Monroe	3-27
O. 28	North Texas	13-10
N. 4	Louisiana-Lafayette	28-31 (OT)
N. 11	@FLA. ATLANTIC	28-14
N. 18	Arkansas State	3-9
N. 25	@MID. TENNESSEE	7-17
D. 2	@FLA. INTERNATIONAL	18-13

## GAME TO WATCH

*After four straight road games against tough teams, this will be the Trojans' first league tilt, and they need a good start.*

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11  
Lettermen returning/lost: 52/12

## OFFENSE

QB	16	Omar Haugabook (6-2, 220, Jr.)
HB	22	Kenny Cattouse (5-10, 207, Jr.)
LT	79	Rob Austin (6-5, 267, Sr.)
LG	65	Chris Jamison (6-3, 285, So.)
C	63	Zach Yenser (6-1, 280, Sr.)
RG	71	Kirbie Bodiford (6-4, 287, Sr.)
RT	68	Will Chambliss (6-6, 229, So.)
WR	5	Smokey Hampton (6-1, 175, Sr.)
WR	80	Josh Alien (5-11, 192, Jr.)
WR	17	Gary Banks (6-1, 196, Jr.)
WR	4	Tor Ruttledge (6-2, 199, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

DE	58	Shawn Todd (6-3, 245, Jr.)
NT	74	Franklin Lloyd (6-0, 283, Sr.)
DT	92	Steve McLendon (6-4, 280, Jr.)
BAN	51	Kenny Manor (6-4, 216, Sr.)
SLB	26	Marcus Richardson (6-3, 214, Jr.)
MLB	56	Joe Baker (6-0, 210, Jr.)
WLB	39	Josh Maxwell (6-0, 204, Jr.)
LCB	34	Leidis McElveen (5-11, 187, Jr.)
RCB	32	Henry Chubb (5-11, 185, So.)
SS	28	Brandon Condren (6-1, 205, Sr.)
FS	6	Sherrod Martin (6-1, 187, Jr.)

## SPECIALISTS

PK	40	Greg Whibbs (5-10, 166, Jr.)
P	49	Jason Wright (6-0, 217, Sr.)



MIAMI

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

## FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL GOLDEN PANTHERS

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-4 Sun Belt

Granted, the school is located in arguably the top recruiting area in the country. But for an upstart program to be picked this high in a preseason poll—and place several players on the preseason all-conference team—suggests program-builder and Coach Don Strock, the former Miami Dolphins quarterback, has done well in a short time.

Last season, the Panthers were 5-6 overall and 3-4 in the league, joining established programs Troy and Middle Tennessee in the middle of the Sun Belt pack. This season, the Panthers are better.

The talent is in place on both sides of the football for FIU to make a legitimate run at the crown. But in order for that to happen, the Panthers have to develop some confidence and momentum with a schedule that spreads out its non-conference games (including trips to South Florida, Miami, Maryland and Alabama). FIU has a chance to refocus its league efforts if needed during the year. Although it plays Miami and Alabama back-to-back on the schedule, there is an off-week in between that will allow the Panthers a breather.

With players such as quarterback Josh Padrick, receiver Chandler Williams, linebacker Keyonvis Bouie, defensive end Antwan Barnes and the most talented tight ends in the league, the Panthers have one of the league's most skilled rosters.

And again, Florida International will look to some incoming players (23) to provide immediate leadership and experience.

But can they put everything together and hold it together for an entire season? That's the question facing the Division I-A newcomer. Strock has refused to cut corners, building the program patiently instead of looking for quick-fix answers. The fruits of his labor may show this season.

Head coach: Don Strock, 5th year (15-29)

Career record: 15-29

**2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT
A. 31	@ MIDDLE TENNESSEE
S. 9	@SOUTH FLORIDA
S. 16	Bowling Green
S. 23	@MARYLAND
S. 30	Arkansas State
O. 7	@NORTH TEXAS
O. 14	@MIAMI (FL)
O. 28	@ALABAMA
N. 4	Louisiana-Monroe
N. 18	Louisiana-Lafayette
N. 25	@FLA. ATLANTIC*
D. 2	Troy

Stadium: Florida International University Stadium  
Capacity: 17,000  
Official athletic Web site: [www.flusports.com](http://www.flusports.com)

**\* GAME TO WATCH \***

Sure, it's the first game, which means there are 11 more, but it's a league game and FIU is a team that needs a good start to after winning four of its final five contests last season.

\* at Miami



MURFREESBORO

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE BLUE RAIDERS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, 3-4 Sun Belt

If Rick Stockstill was looking for a challenge, he has found it in his new gig as coach of the Blue Raiders. The former Clemson, East Carolina and South Carolina assistant has moved into the top office in Murfreesboro and has plenty of work to do.

On the heels of last season's 4-7 overall record and 3-4 mark in the conference, Andy McCollum was fired and Stockstill, who was coaching tight ends and coordinating recruiting efforts for Steve Spurrier at South Carolina, takes over a program that has underachieved in recent seasons. His first MTSU team will feature eight returning starters on offense, including four on the line, but a defense with just four starters back, with five of the seven positions missing up front.

Quarterback Clint Marks is the leader on offense. An accurate southpaw passer, he ranks No. 3 on the school's all-time passing list. Marks will get help from the returning starter at running back, Eugene Gross, who picked up 724 rushing yards last year.

Last season, Middle Tennessee was second in the league in total defense and scoring defense, but many of the players who helped gain that status—especially Sun Belt Defensive Player-of-the-Year Jeff Littlejohn—are gone. That leaves new Defensive Coordinator Manny Diaz with the task of finding the right players to fill the voids.

The secondary, where Damon Nickson and Jonathan Harris return at the safety spots, features the unit's most experience.

Senior Colby Smith returns as the team's punter and placekicker.

The schedule will be tough again, including visits to Oklahoma, Maryland and South Carolina, with Louisville paying a visit to Murfreesboro on Oct. 6. Between Oklahoma and Louisville on the schedule is an important game against North Texas.

Head coach: Rick Stockstill, 1st year

**2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT
A. 31	Florida International
S. 9	@MARYLAND
S. 16	Tennessee Tech
S. 23	@OKLAHOMA
S. 30	@NORTH TEXAS
O. 6	Louisville
O. 21	@LA. MONROE
O. 28	@LA.-LAFAYETTE
N. 4	Florida Atlantic
N. 11	@ARKANSAS ST
N. 18	@SOUTH CAROLINA
N. 25	Troy

Stadium: Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium  
Capacity: 30,788

Official athletic Web site: [www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com)

**\* GAME TO WATCH \***

The game will be an indication of what the new coaching staff has accomplished against an opponent expected to be a factor in the league. With Maryland, Oklahoma and Louisville among the following five opponents, the Blue Raiders need a good start.



DENTON

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

## NORTH TEXAS MEAN GREEN

2005 Record: 2-9 overall, 2-5 Sun Belt

Not only did the Mean Green's 26-game winning streak against conference opponents come to an end last season, but so did its reign as the top team in the Sun Belt and its grip on the league's automatic berth in the New Orleans Bowl.

But that wasn't the most difficult part of the 2005 campaign for North Texas. The Mean Green went winless at home for only the third time in school history, losing its final six games en route to a 2-9 record.

That's quite a reversal of fortune for a program that built a reputation as the team to beat in the conference.

There have been changes on the coaching staff, but Darrell Dickey remains in charge. Jamario Thomas, the nation's leading rusher as a freshman in 2004, is back without the nation's leading rusher in 2003, Patrick Cobbs. Receiver Johnny Quinn is back too, as is defensive back Aaron Weathers, offensive lineman Dylan Lineberry and rover Phillip Graves.

In other words, there is still plenty of talent on the North Texas roster. So was last season a fluke or did it signal a change in the Mean Green's fate and standing in the Sun Belt?

North Texas was close to having a more successful season a year ago. It lost its five Sun Belt games by a combined 21 points, three of them by three points each. Thomas led the league in rushing for the second time, but the Mean Green lost three of its games because it was unable to finish, holding a second-half lead in three of the games it lost. Optimism exists this year because 17 of the team's 24 starters are back.

But the defense must show improvement if North Texas is to return to its winning ways, after allowing the third-most rushing yards (220.9) per game in school history. And the Mean Green's opener against national champ Texas will be a true test.

Head coach: Darrell Dickey, 9th year (39-55)

Career record: 39-55

**2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 2	@TEXAS
S. 9	Southern Methodist
S. 16	@TULSA
S. 23	@AKRON
S. 30	Middle Tennessee
O. 7	Fla. International
O. 21	@ARKANSAS STATE
O. 28	@TROY
N. 4	Louisiana Tech
N. 11	@LA.-LAFAYETTE
N. 18	Florida Atlantic
N. 25	@LA. MONROE

Stadium: Fouts Field

Capacity: 30,500

Official athletic Web site: [www.meangreensports.com](http://www.meangreensports.com)

**GAME TO WATCH**

The Mean Green, after playing its four non-conference games, needs to begin the Sun Belt season off on a successful note, making this a key point in the schedule.



**MONROE**  
PRESEASON RANK:  
**#6**

## LOUISIANA-MONROE WARHAWKS

**2005 Record:** 5-6 overall, 5-2 Sun Belt

There is something new about this year's Monroe team—its nickname. The NCAA, looking to eliminate many of the Indian nicknames across the country, informed Monroe it must come up with a new one.

The choice: Warhawks.

The Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks will take to the field for the first time on Sept. 2 against Alcorn State and follow with road games at Kansas and Alabama. Two other road games against SEC teams (Arkansas and Kentucky) pop up on the schedule later in the year as the Warhawks look for another name by which opposing schools will know them: Sun Belt title contenders.

Making that possibility difficult is the fact Monroe's offense will be without do-everything quarterback Steven Jyles, the league's Player of the Year last season. All he did was lead the league in total offense and place sixth in scoring. Seven starters return on offense, but none will have the impact on this year's team that Jyles had in leading Monroe to a 5-2 league mark (tied for the best record with Arkansas State and Lafayette) and a 5-6 overall record. Leadership will be a key intangible to measuring the success of this year's team.

Monroe has also made a switch to a 4-2-5 defensive alignment. How the Warhawks adjust to the change—and their opponents, too—could be a factor in the team's success as well. It's just as important as finding the right player to direct the offense.

Shreveport's Kinsmon Lancaster appears to be the heir to the starting-quarterback spot. He played in 10 games last season.

Calvin Dawson is expected to be the top running back, but he missed spring drills while recovering from surgery. Marty Humphrey caught 20 passes for 269 yards last year and will be called upon to increase those numbers this year.

The secondary features perhaps the defense's top two players in Chaz Williams and Kevin Payne.

**Head coach:** Charlie Weatherbie, 4th year (11-23)  
**Career record:** 56-67

**2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE OPPONENT
S. 2 @ Alcorn State
S. 9 @KANSAS
S. 16 @ALABAMA
S. 30 Florida Atlantic
O. 7 @ ARKANSAS STATE
O. 14 @TROY
O. 21 @MIDDLE TENN.
O. 28 @ARKANSAS*
N. 4 @FLA. INTERNATIONAL
N. 18 @KENTUCKY
N. 25 North Texas
D. 2 @LA-LAFAYETTE

**\* GAME TO WATCH \***  
The Warhawks beat the Indians a year ago and repeating the trick would bode well for a team that needs to make a quick move in league games.  
\* at Little Rock



**JONESBORO**  
PRESEASON RANK:  
**#7**

## ARKANSAS STATE INDIANS

**2005 Record:** 6-6 overall, 5-2 Sun Belt  
(lost to Southern Miss in the New Orleans Bowl, 31-19)

Now comes the tricky part for the Indians—following up a successful, title-sharing season that found them playing in a bowl game for the first time since 1987. In order to put together another successful season, the Indians will have to do so without the benefit of their top three rushers, their leading passer and five offensive starters from a year ago.

Nine starters are back on defense, along with linebacker Josh Williams, who had more tackles than any freshman in the country in 2004 but was booted off the team for the 2005 season by Coach Steve Roberts. Williams paid his own way to school last year and walked on for spring drills, picking up where he left off with his play on the field.

Some believe the success of last year's team will help push this year's Indians early in the season. But while the team was 6-6 for the year, including a 9-3 win over Troy and a 31-19 loss to Southern Miss in the New Orleans Bowl, there was a lack of consistency. It only won back-to-back games just once (against Lafayette and Florida Atlantic) and finished the year losing three of its final five games.

Gone are running backs Antonio Warren and Sherman Bracey, who combined for 1,765 rushing yards and 11 rushing TDs in 2005.

The top player back on offense is wideout Levi Dejohnette, who was the Indians' leading receiver a year ago, catching 43 passes for 554 yards and one touchdown. The offensive line is led by three-year starter Tanner Jenkins at center.

The defense is anchored by last year's leading tackler, defensive back Tyrell Johnson, who made 112 stops and collected two interceptions.

The schedule presents a challenge. The Indians open with Army, Oklahoma State and SMU before playing Florida International on the road. Memphis and Auburn fill the other non-conference spots.

**Head coach:** Steve Roberts, 5th year (20-28)  
**Career record:** 69-61-1

**2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE OPPONENT
S. 2 Army
S. 9 Oklahoma St.*
S. 23 @SMU
S. 30 @FLA. INTERNATIONAL
O. 7 Louisiana-Monroe
O. 14 @MEMPHIS
O. 21 North Texas
O. 28 @FLA. ATLANTIC
N. 4 @AUBURN
N. 11 Middle Tenn.
N. 18 @TROY
N. 25 @LA-LAFAYETTE

**GAME TO WATCH**  
The Indians are expected to start a bit slowly because of their inexperience on offense, but by this game, their first Sun Belt tilt, they better be ready to play or face the prospect of a long season.  
\* at Little Rock



**BOCA RATON**  
PRESEASON RANK:  
**#8**

## FLORIDA ATLANTIC OWLS

**2005 Record:** 2-9 overall, 2-5 Sun Belt



Casey McGahee, WR

As much progress as Florida Atlantic has made in a short time, it is still a program in its infancy—though it sometimes doesn't act that way.

Take the Owls' 2006 schedule, for example. They are a young bunch who will open the season at Clemson, followed by road games at Kansas State, Oklahoma State, South Carolina and Louisiana-Monroe. That's a difficult schedule, regardless of a team's roster and its time in Division I-A football. But it is especially tough for a program such as FAU that posted a 9-3 record in 2004 but fell hard to 2-9 last season. It is made even more difficult when the starting quarterback and two top receivers from last year's team have departed.

Not only is the team green and missing key players, but it has to settle on a starting quarterback. Opinions vary on the player who has the inside track to the No. 1 job heading into fall—junior Sean Clayton or sophomore McKinney Souverain.

At running back, the top candidates are Dilvory Edgecomb and Charles Pierre, who had a combined 145 carries for 517 yards last year. Casey McGahee had 269 receiving yards in 2005 and is the top returning wideout.

The defense collected only six sacks in '05.

**Head coach:** Howard Schnellenberger, 6th year (28-30)  
**Career record:** 128-105-3

**2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE OPPONENT
S. 2 @CLEMSON
S. 9 @KANSAS STATE
S. 16 @OKLAHOMA ST
S. 23 @SOUTH CAROLINA
O. 7 @LOUISIANA-MONROE
O. 18 Louisiana-Lafayette
O. 25 Arkansas State
N. 4 @MIDDLE TENN.
N. 11 Troy
N. 18 @NORTH TEXAS
N. 25 @FLA. INTERNATIONAL*

**GAME TO WATCH**  
After its killer start against tough opponents, FAU will play its fifth straight game on the road here, but its first against a Sun Belt foe.  
\* at Miami

SUN BELT

STREET & SMITH'S • 139 • 2006 COLLEGE FOOTBALL



SOUTH BEND, IND

# NOTRE DAME

**The magic is back in South Bend as mighty Quinn directs a Weis offense that should roll up plenty of points**

By AL LESAR  
South Bend (Ind.) Tribune

**S**igns of an Irish revival are everywhere. Notre Dame's return to college football's elite appears to be imminent. The foundation is solid, with dynamic second-year Coach Charlie Weis as the cornerstone. Dues have been paid through a 9-3 season that ended in an eye-opening Bowl Championship Series loss to Ohio State.

And the future is bright.

There's a buzz around the program that followed Lou Holtz out of town. A crowd of more than 41,000 for the spring Blue-Gold Game in April testifies.

Mentioning the Heisman Trophy and a Notre Dame player in the same breath hasn't been possible since Raghib "Rocket" Ismail worked his magic. But quarterback Brady Quinn will give the school a reason to crank up the hype machine.

Getting back to the BCS was a major hurdle. Finding the talent to be competitive on that level is the next step.

Speaking of talent, the early verbal commitment offered by Jimmy Clausen, considered to be the best quarterback in the upcoming recruiting class, shows the Irish can battle for and land the elite talent.

Now, all they have to do is go out and win.

Key victories over Michigan and Tennessee last season, two perennial powers that struggled in '05, were pivotal in the Irish success. A last-second loss to Southern Cal was the most bitter setback.

Pittsburgh, Tennessee and BYU are being replaced on this year's 12-game schedule by Georgia Tech, Penn State, UCLA, North Carolina and Army, giving the Irish their share of quality opponents.

Offensively, everything will start with Quinn. He has managed to stay healthy for three seasons—a significant achievement for any quarterback—and has flourished under the mentorship and system used by Weis.

Quinn rewrote the Irish record books after last season, when he completed 292 of 450 passes for 3,919 yards and 32 touchdowns. He was a third-team All-America selection and finished fourth in last year's Heisman Trophy voting. If Quinn remains healthy, there's a strong chance he'll be in New York City this December at least as a finalist.

## RATING THE RECRUTS

**1** Samuel Young, OL, 6-7, 292  
Massive Florida prep blocks our sun.

**2** James Aldridge, RB, 6-1, 215  
In-state prospect should help offense.

**3** Demetrius Jones, QB/ATH, 6-4, 202  
Irish have to find his best position.

**4** Matt Carufel, OL, 6-5, 288  
Top Minnesota prep recruit eyes early time.

**5** Konrad Reuland, TE, 6-6, 239  
Best TE in West could play early.



Official athletic Web site: www.nd.com

# FIGHTING IRISH

Stadium: Notre Dame Stadium (80,795)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



## ▲ BOWL ■ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Charlie Weis, 2nd year (9-3)

Career record: 9-3

Assistant coaches: John Latina (asst. head coach/off. line), Bill Lewis (asst. head coach/def. backs), Mike Haywood (off. coord./RBs), Rick Minter (def. coord./LBs), Rob Ianello (WRs/recruiting coord.), Jappy Oliver (def. line), Bernie Parmalee (TEs/special teams asst.), Brian Polian (head coach special teams/LBs asst.), Peter Vaas (QBs)

## POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	5
DEFENSE	5
SPECIAL TEAMS	5
COACHING	5

2005 Record:

**9-3**

(lost to Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl, 34-20)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@GEORGIA TECH	
S. 9	Penn State	
S. 16	Michigan	17-10
S. 23	@MICHIGAN STATE	41-44 (OT)
S. 30	Purdue	49-28
O. 7	Stanford	38-31
O. 21	UCLA	
O. 28	@NAVY*	42-21
N. 4	North Carolina	
N. 11	@AIR FORCE	
N. 18	Army	
N. 25	@ USC	31-34

## \* GAME TO WATCH \*

While games with Penn State and Michigan will be critical, it's a safe bet that some big-time success will be in the balance for both teams at the L.A. Memorial Coliseum.

\* at Baltimore

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17  
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/23

### OFFENSE

QB	10	Brady Quinn (6-4, 231, Sr.)
FB	44	Asaph Schwapp (6-0, 250, So.)
TB	3	Darius Walker (5-10, 208, Jr.)
LT	68	Ryan Harris (6-5, 288, Sr.)
LG	50	Dan Santucci (6-4, 290, Sr.)
C	78	John Sullivan (6-4, 298, Sr.)
RG	76	Bob Morton (6-4, 292, Sr.)
RT	79	Brian Mattes (6-6, 285, Sr.)
TE	89	John Carlson (6-6, 254, Sr.)
WR	5	Rhema McKnight (6-2, 207, Sr.)
WR	83	Jeff Samardzija (6-5, 216, Sr.)

### DEFENSE

LE	95	Victor Abiamini (6-4, 260, Sr.)
LT	98	Trevor Laws (6-1, 293, Sr.)
RT	66	Derek Landri (6-3, 263, Sr.)
RE	94	Ronald Talley (6-4, 261, Jr.)
LB	48	Steve Quinn (6-2, 215, So.)
LB	47	Maurice Crum Jr. (6-0, 220, Jr.)
LB	40	Anthony Vernaglia (6-3, 221, Jr.)
CB	22	Ambrose Wooden (5-11, 197, Sr.)
CB	30	Michael Richardson (5-11, 193, Sr.)
FS	18	Chinedum Ndukwu (6-2, 219, Sr.)
SS	9	Tom Zbikowski (6-0, 208, Sr.)

### SPECIALISTS

PK	1	Ryan Burkhart (5-11, 185, Fr.)
P	17	Geoff Price (6-3, 186, Sr.)

Street &amp; Smith's All-American

Weis had no problem believing his star quarterback could handle the heavy expectations of being a Heisman candidate on a team favored to compete for the BCS title this season.

"Here's my feeling," Weis says. "If he wins the Heisman Trophy, that probably means we win the national championship. So sign me up."

There's plenty of star power on the Notre Dame offense to go along with Quinn.

Wide receiver Jeff Samardzija was an All-American and finalist for the Biletnikoff Award a year ago. Also a baseball pitcher, he was expected to spend the summer playing professionally in the minors before returning for his senior campaign in football.

Samardzija was on the receiving end of Quinn's passes numerous times, as the senior wideout set a new single-season school record with 15 receiving touchdowns and tied Tom Gatewood's 1970 mark of 77 catches, also adding 1,249 yards in the process.

A knee injury against Michigan sidelined Rhema McKnight for the remainder of last season. He's back at 100 percent and will give defenses more than just Samardzija to worry about. Players such as Chase Anastasio and David Grimes could also see time at wideout.

While being overshadowed in the offensive scheme, tailback Darius Walker has quietly rolled up 1,982 rushing yards and 16 touchdowns in his first two seasons. He also set a school record last season for receptions by a running back with 43.

If the holes are there, Walker can make things happen, and has also proven to be just as productive catching balls out of the backfield. Sophomore Asaph Schwapp won the fullback job midway through last season, and will again block up front for Walker.

Replacing the right side of the offensive line will be the biggest challenge of the preseason. With John Sullivan at center, Bob Morton will likely be at right guard. Right tackle could be manned by Brian Mattes, Michael Turkovich or incoming freshman Sam Young.

Concern isn't as high on the other side, as left tackle Ryan Harris will start for his fourth straight season and senior Dan Santucci returns at left guard after starting all 12 games there last season.

The Irish need someone to step up for the departed Anthony Fasano, who had 576 receiving yards and two touchdowns last season. Heading into the fall, it looked to be a battle between seniors John Carlson and Marcus Freeman.



Replacing linebackers Brandon Hoyte and Corey Mays is the daunting task facing Irish Defensive Coordinator Rick Minter. Anthony Vernaglia and Steve Quinn appear to be the likely candidates to step in. The lone returning starter in the linebacker unit is Maurice Crum Jr., who had back surgery in the offseason.

Safeties Tom Zbikowski, who was expected to dabble in professional boxing over the summer, and Chinedum Ndukwu will be the strength of the secondary. Zbikowski had 71 tackles and five interceptions last season and also gives the Irish an explosive threat in the punt-return game.

Those two will be joined in the secondary by returning starting cornerbacks Michael Richardson and Ambrose Wooden, who led the team in tackles last season with 74.

Notre Dame returns its entire defensive front, led by end Victor Abiamiri. A 6-4, 260-pound senior, Abiamiri recorded eight sacks and 15 tackles for loss in 2005. Junior Ronald Talley is also back at the other end position.

In the middle, however, is where the Irish defense will be the strongest. Seniors Derek Landri (8 tackles for loss, 3 sacks) and Trevor Laws (3, 1.5) are an experienced duo that know their way around the trenches. Landri will be entering his fifth year as a starter.

Stability will be a goal for the kicking game. The departure of kicker/punter D.J. Fitzpatrick has opened some gaping holes. Incoming freshman Ryan Burkhart may be the best bet at kicker, while Geoff Price has a leg up on the punting competition.

Thanks to so many lean years of late, the honeymoon period for Weis has been extended by Notre Dame fans. And the Irish's hopes of playing in the BCS Championship Game could come down to its final regular-season game, where they'll look to exact revenge on the Trojans in Los Angeles.

A true Irish revival will depend on how Notre Dame handles the hype. Every week Quinn and Samardzija will get national attention. How will they respond to that sort of scrutiny?



## NEXT BIG THING MAURICE CRUM JR., junior linebacker

After undergoing back surgery following the Fiesta Bowl, Notre Dame's Maurice Crum Jr. should be ready for the season opener. Where he'll exactly play remains a mystery.

Crum is the only returning starter from last season's linebacker unit, where he played at the strongside, also known as the "Apache" slot to Irish fans. But this season, the 6-0, 220-pound junior could switch to the middle or even the weakside, depending on how the battles go between the less-experienced Notre Dame linebackers.

He'll be expected to lead a group that graduated Brandon Hoyte and Corey Mays, who ranked first and second, respectively, in tackles last season. Crum was fifth on the Irish in that category with 57, including 3.5 for loss.

Crum was an All State player out of Tampa Bay Tech High in Florida, where he racked up 171 combined tackles in two years. His father, Maurice Crum Sr., was an All-America

linebacker at the University of Miami, leading the team in tackles his senior season.

After seeing only scout-team time his freshman season, Crum had an impressive spring in 2005, and was immediately inserted in the starting lineup, where he remained for all of Notre Dame's 11 games. His surgery in the offseason limited his play in spring ball, although he did take reps at all three linebacker positions.

During spring practice, Notre Dame Coach Charlie Weis noted it was important to have a fully healthy Crum ready for the fall—not just for his play on the field, but also the leadership he'll provide to the new linebackers joining him.

"[With] Maurice really being our only guy who has had a lot of time as a starter in our system ... we're going to try and protect Mo as best as we possibly can," Weis says.

—Matt McKenzie

## 2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	GP	YDS	TD
SCORING	440	294	
Points Per Game	36.7	24.5	
FIRST DOWNS	314	239	
Rushing	126	82	
Passing	169	137	
Penalty	19	20	
RUSHING YARDAGE	1765	1588	
Yards gained rushing	2079	1931	
Yards lost rushing	314	343	
Rushing Attempts	491	403	
Average Per Rush	3.6	3.9	
Average Per Game	147.1	132.3	
TDs Rushing	21	17	
PASSING YARDAGE	3963	3175	
Att-Cmp-Int	454-294-8	410-218-13	
Average Per Pass	8.7	7.7	
Average Per Catch	13.5	14.6	
Average Per Game	330.2	264.6	
TDs Passing	32	18	
TOTL. OFFENSE	5728	4763	
Total Plays	945	813	
Average Per Play	6.1	5.9	
Average Per Game	477.3	396.9	
KICK RETURNS, #-YDS	34-646	65-1379	
PUNT RETURNS, #-YDS	28-396	27-174	
INT RETURNS, #-YDS	13-223	8-103	
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.0	21.2	
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	14.1	6.4	
INT RETURN AVERAGE	17.2	12.9	
FUMBLES-LOST	17-6	20-11	
PENALTIES-YARDS	77-667	71-554	
Average Per Game	55.6	46.2	
PUNTS-YARDS	47-1873	61-2503	
Average Per Punt	39.9	41.0	
Net punt average	36.1	34.5	
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME	32:51	27:09	
3RD-DOWN CONV.	90/184	58/165	
3rd-Down Pct	49%	35%	
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/18	14/27	
4th-Down Pct	50%	52%	
SACKS BY YARDS	31-216	21-135	
MISC YARDS	0	4	
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	58	37	
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	12-18	12-17	
PAT ATTEMPTS	54-57	32-33	
ATTENDANCE	484770	370858	
Games, Avg Per Game	6/80795	5/74172	
Neutral Site Games	1/76196		

	GP	YDS	TD
Notre Dame	87	145	78
Opponents	75	47	127

## 2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

### OFFENSE

#### PASSING

Brady Quinn	GP	Effic.	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
	12	158.40	450-292-7	64.9	3919	32	326.6

#### DAVID WOLKE

David Wolke	GP	Effic.	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
	6	45.07	3-1-1	33.3	28	0	4.7

#### RUSHING

Darius Walker	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
	12	253	1196	4.7	9	99.7
Travis Thomas		63	248	3.9	5	20.7

#### R. Powers-Neal

R. Powers-Neal	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
	5	31	100	3.2	6	20.0

#### RECEIVING

Jeff Samardzija	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
	12	77	1249	16.2	15	104.1

#### Maunce Stovall

Maunce Stovall	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
	12	69	1149	16.7	11	95.8

#### A. Fasano

A. Fasano	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
	12	47	576	12.3	2	48.0

#### DEFENSE

#### TACKLES

Brandon Hoyte	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
	12	53	39	92
Corey Mays		43	37	80
Ambrose Wooden		61	13	74

#### SACKS

Victor Abiamiri	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
	12	80	78		2

#### Brandon Hoyte

Brandon Hoyte	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
	12	60	23		0

#### Corey Mays

Corey Mays	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
	12	50	35		0

#### INTERCEPTIONS

Tom Zbikowski	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
	12	5	136	27.2	2

#### Mike Richardson

Mike Richardson	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
	12	3	16	5.3	0

#### Ambrose Wooden

Ambrose Wooden	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
	12	2	41	20.5	0

## NAVY



## Midshipmen have plenty of (triple) options heading into fall

**T**hree straight Commander-in Chief's trophies. Three consecutive bowl appearances. And a good deal of talent coming back.

Navy has every reason to feel good about 2006.

Last year went a long way toward proving the attitude Coach Paul Johnson has developed in the Midshipmen during his four seasons at Annapolis. Finding success is one thing, but Navy players have been able to maintain the quality of their performances.

Just don't tell that to Johnson.

"We're starting over," Johnson says. "This team hasn't done anything. I would rather go [into a new season] with high expectations than no expectations, but that's just what they are: expectations. This team hasn't won a game."

Three-point losses to Maryland and Stanford to start the season challenged the status quo, but the Midshipmen managed to win eight of their last 10 games, including an impressive 51-30 Poinsettia Bowl victory over Colorado State.

Gone from the Navy schedule this season are Maryland, Kent State, Rice and Tulane. East Carolina, Massachusetts, Tulsa, Connecticut and Eastern Michigan are replacements in the 12-game arrangement.

If those expectations are going to be realized, Brian Hampton will have to be the guy to make them happen. The quarterback in Navy's high-octane, triple-option attack is the vital component. He makes the reads and the judgments that make or break the offense.

"I would just like to see him make good decisions," Johnson says of Hampton. "He has to be consistent. He has ability. He needs to



## MIDSHIPMEN

Stadium: Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (34,000)

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND



## ▲ BOWL ★ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Paul Johnson, 5th year (28-21)

Career record: 90-31

Assistant coaches: Ken Niumataolo (asst. head coach/OL), Buddy Green (def. coord./secondary), Ivin Jasper (QBs), Chris Culton (FBs), Jeff Monken (slot backs/STs coord.), Brian Bonham (WRs), Todd Spencer (OTs), Dale Peirson (DL), Danny O'Rourke (ILBs), Keith Jones (OLBs), Tony Grantham (OLBs), Joe Speed (secondary)

## POWER RATINGS

	★ ★ ★ ★
OFFENSE	★ ★ ★ ★
DEFENSE	★ ★ ★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★ ★ ★
COACHING	★ ★ ★ ★

2005 Record:

**8-4**

(beat Colorado State in the Poinsettia Bowl, 51-30)

## 2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	05 RESULT
S. 2	East Carolina	
S. 9	Massachusetts	
S. 16	@STANFORD	38-41
S. 23	Tulsa	
S. 30	@CONNECT.CUT	
O. 7	@AIR FORCE	27-24
O. 14	Rutgers	21-31
O. 28	Notre Dame*	21-42
N. 4	@DUKE	28-21
N. 11	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	
N. 18	Temple	38-17
D.J. (Navy)*		42-23

## ★ GAME TO WATCH ★

*It would be easy to say that an upset of Notre Dame (Oct. 28 in Baltimore) could make the Midshipmen's quarter-century, but in reality there's no game bigger than Army-Navy.*

\*at Baltimore; \*\*at Philadelphia

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19  
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/22

## OFFENSE

QB	3	Brian Hampton (5-11, 208, Sr.)
FB	22	Adam Ballard (6-1, 223, Jr.)
SB	21	Trey Hines (5-9, 208, Sr.)
SB	7	Reggie Campbell (5-6, 165, Jr.)
LT	79	Matt Pritchett (6-2, 290, Sr.)
LG	60	Zach Gallow (6-2, 315, Sr.)
C	69	James Rossi (6-1, 269, Sr.)
RG	63	Antron Harper (5-11, 257, Jr.)
RT	75	Andrew McGinn (6-1, 247, So.)
WR	89	Tyree Barnes (6-2, 200, So.)
WR	87	Jason Tomlinson (6-1, 208, Sr.)

## DEFENSE

LE	96	Andrew Tattersall (6-4, 252, Sr.)
NG	98	Larry Cyc (6-2, 280, Sr.)
RE	95	John Chan (6-1, 249, Sr.)
OLB	40	David Mahoney (5-9, 219, Sr.)
ILB	57	Rob Caldwell (6-0, 229, Sr.)
ILB	50	Joe Cyc (5-11, 228, Sr.)
OLB	45	Tyler Tidwell (6-2, 224, Sr.)
CB	8	Jeremy McGown (5-11, 189, Sr.)
CB	4	Keenan Little (5-11, 195, Sr.)
ROV	11	Ketric Buffin (5-7, 165, So.)
FS	25	Duluan Price (5-11, 214, Sr.)
PK	39	Joey Bullen (5-10, 186, Jr.)
P	31	Greg Veteto (6-1, 175, Jr.)

be consistent every day and show me that he's improved enough that he is going to make good decisions that will give us a chance to win the game. He doesn't have to win the game; he just has to keep from losing it."

Hampton takes over the helm from Lamar Owens, who led the Navy offense last season to a No. 1 national ranking in rushing yards at 318.7 yards a game.

Slot back Reggie Campbell offers plenty of promise for a return to that lofty status. Campbell scored an amazing five touchdowns and collected 116 rushing yards, 89 receiving yards and 85 kickoff-return yards in the bowl win over Colorado State.

Fullback Adam Ballard and wide receiver Tyree Barnes are other assets on Navy's offense.

One of the most intriguing players will be guard Antron Harper, who at 5-11 and 257 pounds may be the smallest offensive lineman in Division I-A football.

Defensively, 11 of Navy's top 13 tacklers from last season are back.

Linebackers Rob Caldwell, David Mahoney and Tyler Tidwell are veterans. Corners Keenan Little and Jeremy McGown have experience, as do safeties DuJuan Price and Ketric Buffin and linemen Andrew Tattersall, John Chan and Larry Cyc.

Joey Bullen is back after a good year as Navy's kicker, while Greg Veteto will handle the punting.



**ARMY  
CADETS**

2005 Record: 4-7 overall

Since taking over as coach at Army two years ago, Bobby Ross' focus has been on establishing stability with the Black Knights' program.

Heading into the 2006 campaign, it's an objective yet to be achieved.

Four straight wins late last season, including a three-point decision over Air Force, gave hints that things might be heading in the right direction. But a 42-23 thrashing at the hands of Navy sent Army coaches back to the drawing board.

Now the Black Knights must try to enhance their offensive-recovery project while filling the voids left by four-year starters Zac Dahman (quarterback) and Carlton Jones (running back).

"We've got to be a team that sustains effort, sustains assignment and sustains technique," Ross says.

Being in every game will take some doing, given the adventurous schedule Army has lined up. The Black Knights have added teams like Notre Dame and Texas A&M to a slate that already included TCU and some other quality mid-majors.

David Peveto, who had some cameo appearances as Dahman's understudy a year ago, has the inside track on the quarterback job. Getting comfortable with Army's option package is Peveto's preseason assignment.

Senior Ricky Lay reported to West Point as a quarterback. He was moved to wide receiver and will now make the transition to running back, where he appears headed for the starting job. He got most of his work done on special teams a year ago.

Fullback Mike Viti has become a key part of the Army offense. A forgotten position before Ross arrived, the fullback provides the element of versatility that makes the option deceptive. Veteran linemen Pete Bier, Dan Evans, Matt Wesiner, Ray Zelenak and Jonathan Connon give Ross a comfort zone up front, a place where the offense can begin.

Six of Army's front seven on defense return, but new faces at cornerback should be reason for significant concern.

"Any team needs [confidence]," Ross says. "We need it as much as anybody. The one thing we have to overcome is that when something goes bad, we still need to maintain our poise and come together as a football team."

**5-YEAR WINS TREND**

2005	4
2004	2
2003	1
2002	1
2001	3

▲ BOWL ★ NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Bobby Ross, 3rd year (6-16)

**Career record:** 100-92-2

**Stadium:** Michie Stadium

**Capacity:** 40,000

**Official athletic Web site:** [www.goarmysports.com](http://www.goarmysports.com)

**2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@ARKANSAS STATE	38-10
S. 9	Kent State	
S. 16	@TEXAS A&M*	
S. 23	@BAYLOR	10-20
S. 30	Rice	
O. 7	Virginia Military	
O. 14	@CONNECTICUT	13-47
O. 21	TCU	17-38
O. 28	@TULANE	
N. 3	Air Force	27-24
N. 10	@NOTRE DAME	

**The Cadets will look to break a four-game skid in this series, in which they have been outscored 176-54 by the Midshipmen.**

\* at San Antonio \*\* at Philadelphia

**PROJECTED STARTERS**

Starters returning: 19

Lettermen returning/lost: 48/22

**OFFENSE**

QB	14	David Peveto (6-5, 229, Jr.)
FB	33	Mike Viti (5-10, 242, Jr.)
RB	18	Ricky Lay (6-4, 215, Sr.)
LT	77	Ray Zelenak (6-3, 262, Jr.)
LG	58	Dan Evans (6-3, 297, Sr.)
C	67	Pete Bier (6-4, 282, Sr.)
RG	70	Matt Wesiner (6-3, 289, Sr.)
RT	72	Jonathan Connon (6-6, 293, Sr.)
TE	84	Tim Dunn (6-4, 238, Sr.)
WR	2	Walter Hill (5-11, 190, Sr.)
WR	5	Jeremy Trimble (6-0, 214, Jr.)

**DEFENSE**

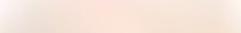
DE	95	Brandon Thompson (6-4, 265, Jr.)
DT	99	Travis Prikryl (6-4, 270, Sr.)
DT	66	Tony Fusco (6-1, 308, Jr.)
DE	94	Cameron Craig (6-4, 251, Sr.)
SLB	45	Charlie Rockwood (6-4, 221, Jr.)
MLB	54	Cason Shrophe (6-3, 251, Sr.)
WLB	55	Barrett Scruggs (6-1, 213, Sr.)
FC	8	Darter Newson (5-1, 187, So.)
SS	13	Caleb Campbell (6-3, 223, Jr.)
FS	4	Randy Chasten (6-2, 211, Sr.)
BC	26	Sean Grevious (5-11, 173, Sr.)

**SPECIALISTS**

PK	49	Justin Koenig (5-11, 180, Sr.)
P	1	Owen Tolson (6-3, 205, Jr.)

**PHILADELPHIA****TEMPLE  
OWLS**

2005 Record: 0-11 overall

**5-YEAR WINS TREND**

2005	2
2004	2
2003	1
2002	4
2001	4

▲ BOWL ★ NATIONAL TITLE

**Head coach:** Al Golden, 1st year  
**Stadium:** Lincoln Financial Field  
**Capacity:** 68,532  
**Official athletic Web site:** [www.owlsparts.com](http://www.owlsparts.com)

**2006 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	16-19
A. 31	@BUFFALO	
S. 9	Louisville	
S. 16	@MINNESOTA	
S. 23	@W. MICHIGAN	16-19
S. 30	@VANDERBILT	
O. 7	Kent State	
O. 12	@CLEMSON*	7-37
O. 21	@N. ILLINOIS	
O. 28	Bowling Green	7-20
N. 4	Central Michigan	
N. 11	@PENN STATE	
N. 18	@NAVY	17-38

**★ GAME TO WATCH ★**

This will be the first test at home for new Temple Coach Al Golden, who faces a high-powered Cardinals offense.

\* at Charlotte, N.C.

**PROJECTED STARTERS**

Starters returning: 8  
Lettermen returning/lost: 40/31

**OFFENSE**

QB	17	Shane Kelly (6-4, 215, So.)
FB	39	Josh Bundy (5-10, 240, Jr.)
RB	7	Tim Brown (5-8, 185, Sr.)
LT	71	Jahan Ferguson (6-4, 295, So.)
LG	55	Tariq Sanders (6-6, 310, Sr.)
C	59	Alex Derenthal (6-4, 280, So.)
RG	60	Neil Dickson (6-4, 280, Sr.)
RT	70	Elliot Seifert (6-7, 300, Sr.)
TE	84	Ben Hendy (6-3, 235, So.)
WR	82	Bruce Francis (6-0, 175, So.)
WR	2	Domenic Hamilton (6-0, 195, Sr.)

**DEFENSE**

DE	73	Devin Tyler (6-7, 250, r-Fr.)
NT	92	Terance Knighton (6-4, 325, So.)
DE	94	Philip Simpson (6-2, 275, So.)
OLB	93	Leyton Azubuike (6-3, 245, So.)
ILB	43	Keth Holt (6-1, 215, So.)
LB	44	Walter Mebane (6-0, 225, Sr.)
OLB	5	Ryan Gore (6-0, 225, Sr.)
CB	29	Georg Coleman (6-0, 180, So.)
CB	6	David Reese (5-11, 180, Sr.)
S	21	Dominique Harris (6-3, 190, r-Fr.)
S	24	Chris Page (5-10, 175, Sr.)

**SPECIALISTS**

PK	18	Danny Murphy (5-8, 175, Jr.)
P	47	Jake Brownell (5-10, 195, r-Fr.)

# DIVISION I-AA

**Look for Wildcats to prevail in division that crowns a champion the proper way**

By MATT MCKENZIE

Street & Smith's Staff Writer

**D**ivision I college football can have its bowls, spread out over a month, including numerous tie-ins with big corporate sponsorships. You want a true national champion? Look no further than one step down in Division I-AA.

Immediately after completing the regular season, 16 teams fight it out over the next four weeks in a playoff format. And although there's hardly as much hype leading up to the I-AA national championship compared with the BCS, the reward is that much greater, says Jerry Moore, coach of the 2005 champion Appalachian State Mountaineers.

"I've never had any second thoughts about I-AA playoffs," Moore says. "When it's all said and done ... it's one of the hardest championships in the NCAA. There's no breaks and there's no bias."

While Division I teams get to rest their players between the end of the regular season and the bowl games, it's right back to work for I-AA teams in the playoffs. And more often than not, to prevail as the champion, teams have to get past conference opponents again in the postseason, as Appalachian State did with Furman (Southern) last year and James Madison

did with William and Mary (Atlantic 10) two seasons ago.

For the Mountaineers to repeat, they'll have to get past New Hampshire, which tops Street & Smith's preseason Top 25 I-AA poll. The Wildcats are led by the tantalizing combo of quarterback Ricky Santos and receiver David Ball, who both are on Street & Smith's preseason All America list.

Santos has thrown for 7,115 yards and 70 touchdowns over two seasons with New Hampshire, and Ball has been his favorite target. During that same span, the senior receiver has 3,055 receiving yards and 41 touchdowns.

"They've been two key components to this offense," says Wildcats Coach Sean McDonnell. "The guy pulling the trigger, Ricky, and the guy catching the ball, David. Both of them have led by example the last couple years, and they continue to improve. David's been working on his speed and takeoff, and Ricky is going to try and cut down on his interceptions."

McDonnell adds that along with a good squad on the field, other factors have to be in place in order for a team to avoid an upset during the postseason. And he should know—last year the Wildcats had

the top seed in the I-AA playoffs, but lost in the second round to Northern Iowa.

"You've got to stay injury free or have depth," he says. "Look at what Appalachian State did. They won it because of how hard they played. Their starting quarterback [Richie Williams] went down [before] the championship game, and the backup [Trey Elder] came in for a half and played well."

"Our kids that have been in the hunt before, they know that you've got to be lucky and got to get some breaks. I don't know when those

## STREET & SMITH'S DIVISION I-AA ALL-AMERICA TEAM

BY TOM COOPER

<b>QB</b>	Ricky Santos (6-2, 215, Jr.) New Hampshire
<b>RB</b>	Alonzo Coleman (5-11, 205, Sr.) Hampton
<b>RB</b>	James Noble (5-6, 180, r-Sr.) Cal Poly
<b>OL</b>	Matt Alfred (6-3, 290, Jr.) Eastern Washington
<b>OL</b>	Ed McCarthy (6-5, 302, Sr.) Yale
<b>OL</b>	Eric Johnson (6-3, 287, Sr.) Eastern Illinois
<b>OL</b>	Matt Isenhour (6-1, 275, Sr.) Appalachian State
<b>C</b>	Alex Miller (6-2, 300, r-Sr.) Massachusetts
<b>WR</b>	Laurent Robinson (6-2, 195, Sr.) Illinois State
<b>WR</b>	David Ball (6-3, 185, Jr.) New Hampshire
<b>TE</b>	Patrick Bugg (6-5, 215, r-Sr.) Eastern Kentucky
<b>PK</b>	Andrew Paterini (6-0, 195, Sr.) Hampton
<b>RS</b>	Nick Feldman (5-9, 175, So.) Morehead State

### DEFENSE

<b>DL</b>	Kevin Winston (6-3, 230, r-Sr.) James Madison
<b>DT</b>	Troy Collins (6-3, 280, Sr.) Northwestern State
<b>DE</b>	Marques Murrell (6-2, 230, Sr.) Appalachian State
<b>DE</b>	Martin Jackson (6-4, 250, Sr.) Alcorn State
<b>LB</b>	Justin Durant (6-2, 227, Sr.) Hampton
<b>LB</b>	Chad Nkang (6-0, 214, Sr.) Elon
<b>LB</b>	Kyle Shotwell (6-1, 235, Sr.) Cal Poly
<b>DB</b>	Tristan Burge (6-0, 200, Sr.) Eastern Illinois
<b>DB</b>	Corey Lynch (6-0, 200, Jr.) Appalachian State
<b>DB</b>	Tony LeZotte (6-0, 200, r-Jr.) James Madison
<b>DB</b>	Keldrick Holman (6-0, 195, Sr.) Stephen F Austin
<b>P</b>	David Simonhoff (6-2, 200, Sr.) Southeast Missouri State

### TOP PLAYERS

<b>Offense</b>	Ricky Santos, QB, New Hampshire
<b>Defense</b>	Marques Murrell, DE, Appalachian St.
<b>Newcomer</b>	Josh Swogger, QB, Montana

are going to come, but hopefully we'll catch some this season."

Rounding out the preseason top five are Montana, James Madison and Northern Iowa, last year's runner-up for the I-AA championship. It's been 20 years since at least one of those teams did not make the playoffs. Look for that trio to make noise come this postseason, especially if New Hampshire's defense can't match the offense and Appalachian State has trouble with the loss of offensive star Williams.

Then again, maybe it's better to go into the playoffs as an underdog. Only one time (Montana, 2001) in the last 11 years has a No. 1 seed won the I-AA Championship. With 16 of the best teams battling, there's no easy game in the playoffs, and certainly no room for error.

"It's a grueling 18 weeks to the year, I'll tell you that," Moore says.



### TOP 25

- |                      |                     |                        |                      |                          |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. New Hampshire     | 6. Cal Poly         | 11. North Dakota State | 16. Texas State      | 21. Eastern Illinois     |
| 2. Appalachian State | 7. Illinois State   | 12. Delaware           | 17. Eastern Kentucky | 22. Grambling State      |
| 3. Montana           | 8. Youngstown State | 13. Nicholls State     | 18. McNeese State    | 23. Massachusetts        |
| 4. James Madison     | 9. Furman           | 14. Coastal Carolina   | 19. Colgate          | 24. South Carolina State |
| 5. Northern Iowa     | 10. Hampton         | 15. UC Davis           | 20. Georgia Southern | 25. William and Mary     |



## ► TOP PLAYERS

Offense	Ricky Santos, QB, New Hampshire
Defense	Tony LeZotte, S, James Madison
Newcomer	Joe Flacco, QB, Delaware

## ► PREDICTIONS

### NORTH

1. New Hampshire
2. Massachusetts
3. Maine
4. Hofstra
5. Rhode Island
6. Northeastern

### SOUTH

1. James Madison
2. Delaware
3. William & Mary
4. Richmond
5. Villanova
6. Towson

## While A-10 title is up for grabs this year, league will be fruitful come playoff time

By JOHN O'CONNOR  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Pick a team projected to finish well back in the Atlantic 10 Football Conference pack. Somewhere down there is a 2006 Division I-AA playoff qualifier, if the last two years can be used as indicators.

The A-10's balance was clearly demonstrated in 2004, when James Madison was forecast to finish fourth in the six-member A-10 South Division, then won the national championship. Last August, Richmond was projected as the fifth-place team in the South. The Spiders shared the league title with New Hampshire, then went on to eliminate the only unbeaten team (Hampton) left in I-AA on the road in the first round of the playoffs.

The 2006 A-10 race figures to be just as unpredictable, but count on the conference sending nationally competitive outfits to the postseason. Three times during the last decade, an A-10 team has captured the national championship, including back-to-back titles in 2003 (Delaware) and 2004 (JMU), while Massachusetts won it all in 1998. This will be the A-10's last shot at a I-AA championship, as the Colonial Athletic Association assumes operational control of the football league next year (membership will remain the same).

Several of the league's top talents from last season return, led by New Hampshire quarterback Ricky Santos, the A-10's 2005 Offensive Player of the Year as a sophomore. Santos passed for 3,797 yards and 39 touchdowns and led the Wildcats to their second consecutive trip to the playoffs. No other league QB threw more than 20 TDs.

A third straight season of playoff qualification seems probable for UNH, which also brings back David Ball, a 6-3 senior receiver who averaged 17.8 yards per catch and caught 24 TD passes last season, 11 more than any other A-10 WR.

The 2005 A-10 Defensive Player of the Year, All-America JMU safety Tony LeZotte, is only a junior this season. But the 6-0, 190-pound LeZotte already has established himself as a fearless and forceful run stopper and savvy pass defender for the Dukes, who will rely on defense, a power running game and the league's best home-field atmosphere.

The A-10's top seven rushers from 2005 return, as do the top six passers, the top five sack men and 15 of the top 20 tacklers. The league has advanced multiple teams to the postseason 15 straight times, the longest active streak among I-AA conferences. In short, the A-10 remains one of the most powerful I-AA leagues.

### NORTH DIVISION

Ricky Santos has two tough acts to follow, both of them his own. The junior quarterback threw 31 touchdown passes as a New Hampshire freshman, then followed that with 39 last season. No active Division I QB has thrown for more career TDs than the 6-2, 215-pound Santos.

Wildcats receiver David Ball leads all active Division I players with 45 career TD catches. New Hampshire Coach Sean McDonnell's offense led the A-10 with a scoring average of 41.7 points in 2005, mostly thanks to their QB/wideout duo. Leading 2005 rusher John McCoy (942 yards) is gone, but quick tailback Kaysonne Anderson reactivates after missing last year with a knee injury.

From a defense that led I-AA with 45 takeaways, seven starters graduated. The secondary remains strong, led by junior Jeff Pammer, who was named as a second-team All-American last season.

The Wildcats have advanced to the last two I-AA tournaments and won a school-record 11 games in 2005. A third straight trip seems likely with the Santos/Ball combination.

### GAME TO WATCH: 10/14/06: James Madison @ New Hampshire

These division-title contenders haven't met since 2003, with the last three meetings decided by a TD or less, and JNH winning two of three.

Safety James Ihedigbo led Massachusetts in sacks (7.5) and tackles for loss (12.5) last season, which speaks to the aggressive style the Minutemen have employed since defensive-minded Don Brown took over as coach in 2004.

UMass returns virtually all of the difference-makers who helped it lead I-AA in scoring defense (13.3 points per game), finish third in total defense (261.2 yards per game) and surrender just five rushing TDs. The linebackers, with Jason Hatchell as anchor, will get a push from Connecticut transfer Anthony Rouzier, while senior cornerback Tracy Belton has 10 interceptions in 26 starts.

Senior Steve Baylark, a 225-pound running back, will go for his fourth consecutive 1,000-yard rushing season—something only two players in I-AA history have accomplished.

The role of sophomore quarterback Liam Coen may expand this season in Brown's balanced offense. Coen completed 63.9 percent of his passes as a rookie, and this year will work with a couple of imposing targets, 6-4 Brandon London and 6-5 Rasheed Rancher. When UMass punts, it will do so with one of I-AA's best, senior Christian Koegel, who finished fourth nationally in 2005 (43-yard average).

Maine wants to pick up where it left off last season. In winning three of its last four games in 2005, the Black Bears averaged 28.3 points. Overall, though, Maine still may be a bit green for playoff contention.

Coach Jack Cosgrove has a senior quarterback in Ron Whitcomb, who has passed for 6,965 career yards and 59 TDs. Whitcomb will focus on senior receiver Arel Gordon (70 receptions), but there's not much else in the way of experienced wideouts. Maine will also break in a new running back—either sophomore Jerron Pearson or sophomore Wellington Tukpa—to step in for Montell

Owens (779 rushing yards). A better running game will be key for a team that finished 10th among 12 A-10 teams in rushing yards per game last season.

The Bears allowed a league-high 42 sacks in 2005, but that set of blockers was young, and improved as the season progressed. Look for the Black Bears to be one of the better A-10 defenses, with linebacker John Wormuth and 6-3 DB Daren Stone working behind a line that features Mike DeVito (6.5 sacks).

At Hofstra, out goes the run-and-shoot offense and in comes a more traditional brand. That's the most obvious change accompanying Joe Gardi's retirement as the Pride's coach after 16 seasons and the naming of Dave Cohen as Gardi's successor. Under Cohen, Hofstra isn't likely to finish third nationally in passing (306.5 yards per game) as it did last season. But the Pride probably will average more than the 123.4 rushing yards a game they did in 2005. This should be good news for running backs Terry Crenshaw (817 rushing yards) and Kareem Huggins.

Hofstra had the league's best one-two punch at wide receiver last season in Marques Colston and Devale Ells. Both are now gone, but junior Charles Sullivan already has 100 career catches. Senior QB Anton Clarkson averaged 302 passing yards a game, but may need time to acclimate to the new scheme.

Defensively, Hofstra went from 10th in the league (27.5 points per game) in 2004 to fourth in 2005 (20.2), and has seven returning starters, including all four in the secondary. Look for that improvement to continue with the return of junior linebacker Gian Villante, a 2004 All-American who missed last season (knee injury).

Rob Zarilli gives the Pride a reliable kicker. He comes off a sophomore season in which he converted 17 of 19 field goal

attempts and 33 of 36 extra points, helping him to be named third team All-American.

Find a hard-nosed fullback who quickly gets to the hole. Then put him in a run-based offense. That's how **Rhode Island's** Joe Casey led the A-10 in rushing last season as a freshman.

The 5-10, 200-pound Casey gained 1,245 yards last year in the Rams' wishbone-style setup, which picked up an average of 318.5 ground yards—third best in Division I-AA.

Coach Tim Stowers needs a new triggerman with the loss of slippery QB Jayson Davis, who left URI as the program's all-time leader in rushing touchdowns (42). Derek Cassidy is the favorite to succeed Davis, and the sophomore may give the Rams a better passing threat. Eight defensive starters are back to help URI improve on its total-defense numbers of 400.1 yards given up per game in 2005.

Five straight road games start **Northeastern's** season, and that includes an opener at Virginia Tech. For the young Huskies, it may be time for some character-building. Coach Rocky Hager's offense will revolve around junior running back Maurice Murray, who gained 998 yards last season.

Quarterback Anthony Orio started as a redshirt freshman last season, when the Huskies averaged 22.5 points per game (11th in the A-10). But Northeastern's defense needs the most sharpening, as the Huskies allowed averages of 30.9 points and 405.7 yards in 2005. Seven starters are back, including two of the league's better linebackers in senior Jamil Young and junior Joe Mele.

## SOUTH DIVISION

Each of James Madison's four losses last season was decided by six points or less. That's how the 2004 national champion fell out of the 2005 Division I-AA playoff picture.

However, the Dukes aren't in for a significant rebuilding job after back-to-back strong seasons. Coach Mickey Matthews needs to replace about half of the unit that finished fifth nationally in scoring defense (15.3 points per game), but retooling the defense shouldn't be a problem, especially with

All-America safety Tony LeZotte in the middle of the operation.

The junior is the first player in nearly 30 years to earn first-team All-A-10 honors after each of his first two seasons, and LeZotte was the prime reason JMU allowed a league-low eight touchdown passes in 2005. The Dukes will again major in a ball-control running game that features a pair of 2,000-yard career rushers in redshirt seniors Alvin Banks (2,389 yards) and Maurice Fenner (2,316).

Redshirt-senior quarterback Justin Rascati has passed for 31 touchdowns and been intercepted only 10 times in two JMU seasons after transferring from Louisville. Madison has its big-play receiving threat back after speedy D.D. Boxley played in just four games in 2005 due to a dislocated ankle.

Defensive end Kevin Winston (8 sacks) is back, along with standout junior linebacker Akeem Jordan.

Not even **Delaware's** field avoided a slip in 2005. The Blue Hens played a "home" game at Richmond, due to ultra muddy conditions at Delaware Stadium, as part of a disappointing 6-5 season.

Delaware failed to generate offensive continuity last year, other than Omar Cuff. The All-A-10 running back rushed for 1,205 yards and was also the league's top pass-catching back (41 receptions).

To achieve better offense, the Blue Hens need to spread the ball around. That job will go to a new quarterback, probably junior Joe Flacco, a Pittsburgh transfer. Four of Delaware's top five tacklers return, including well-regarded senior linebacker KeiAndre Hepburn. And the Blue Hens will have seven home games on a new playing surface—good news for Delaware, which is 25-4 at home in four years under Coach K.C. Keeler.

**William & Mary** has been among the A-10's most consistent winners since joining the league in 1993. But in 2005, the Tribe dropped their last four games—the first time that happened since Jimmie Laycock became coach in 1980—and finished with its first losing league record (3-5).

Don't look for major surgery at W&M; that's not how Laycock operates. The Tribe will go with

sophomore QB Jake Phillips, who passed for 1,564 yards and 12 touchdowns as a redshirt freshman despite starting just seven games. Phillips will be complemented by a solid tandem of backs in senior Elijah Brooks (944 yards) and sophomore DeBrian Holmes (304).

The Tribe's main problem in 2005 was defense, and that weakness will be addressed by the return of two linebackers who missed last season—Chris Ndubueze (personal reasons) and Travis McLaurin (injured).

Phillips' top receiver is junior Joe Nicholas, who has made five or more catches in 14 of his 24 games. The Tribe needs to find a new kicker, who will have big shoes to fill, as Greg Kuehn completed his career with a league-record 59 field goals.

**Richmond** tries to follow up its 2005 unexpected success without the player most responsible—quarterback Stacy Tutt.

Tutt passed (2,219 yards) and ran (828) the Spiders to a share of the A-10 title and the I-AA quarterfinals in a season in which Richmond was projected to finish fifth in the South.

Coach Dave Clawson and the Spiders' staff studied three QB candidates in the spring—sophomore Levi Brown, redshirt sophomore Will Healy and redshirt freshman Eric Ward.

A physical two-man tailback rotation consists of 220-pound junior Tim Hightower and 220-pound sophomore Josh Vaughan. Redshirt junior Arman Shields came on last season as a wide receiver who could turn a short completion into a long gain, a necessary component in Richmond's passing attack.

Seven starters return from a defense that allowed an average of 17.8 points per game, and the Spiders have playmakers in defensive end Sherman Logan—who led the league in sacks (11.5) and was named the 2005 A-10 Defensive Rookie of the Year—and linebacker Adam Goloboski, who has recorded more than 100 tackles in each of the last two seasons.

The return of QB Marvin Burroughs gives **Villanova** a chance in every game. But without improvement, the defense puts the Wildcats in jeopardy each time out. Burroughs, a creative senior who passed for 2,486 yards and 20 TDs two years ago,

sustained a season-ending arm injury in last year's first game. The Wildcats never recovered, posting their first losing season (4-7) since 2000.

**Villanova** may give true freshmen Angelo Babbaro and Aaron Ball immediate chances in the backfield after the Wildcats finished last among A-10 teams in rushing (104.4 yards per game).

Only one A-10 player had more unassisted tackles in 2005 than Wildcats safety Allyn Bacchus, a senior this year. The Wildcats surrendered an average of 31.8 points per game, second worst in the conference. Bacchus and senior cornerback Rodney Badger give Villanova two of the A-10's better defensive backs, but the Wildcats will miss graduated linebacker Brian Hulea, who was first-team all-conference three times.

The next step for **Towson** is title contention but that may be a stretch in 2006. As second-year A-10 members last season, the Tigers were the league's biggest surprise, staying in the playoff hunt until getting thumped in their final two games by Richmond and James Madison. Still, Towson (6-5 overall) made substantial progress after going winless in the conference during 2004.

Towson nearly doubled its point production from 2004 to 2005 (31.4 points per game) with Sean Schaefer taking over at QB. Last season as a freshman, he completed 61.9 percent of his passes for 2,772 yards and 20 TDs. Schaefer's instant emergence coincided with the steady running of Nick Williams (911 rushing yards), a junior this season.

A deep group of returning wideouts is highlighted by senior Andrae Brown, who led the Tigers last year in receiving yards (870) and catches (63) and 6-8 junior-college transfer Tommy Breaux, who is also expected to play basketball.

To make all that offensive talent translate into wins, Coach Gordy Combs now must find a way to stiffen his defense, which allowed a league-high average of 33.8 points per game. The Tigers were particularly vulnerable in the red zone, where opponents scored 32 touchdowns in 45 trips. Junior linebacker Brian Bradford is a good piece to build around

## TOP PLAYERS

- Offense** Lex Hilliard, RB, Montana  
**Defense** Pago Togafau, LB, Idaho State  
**Newcomer** Josh Swogger, QB, Montana

## PREDICTIONS

1. Montana
2. Weber State
3. Portland State
4. Eastern Washington

5. Idaho State
6. Montana State
7. Northern Arizona
8. Sacramento State

\*Northern Colorado not eligible for title

## GAME TO WATCH: 10/21/06: Montana @ Weber State

A year ago, the Grizzlies had to hang on for a 24-19 early-season win over the Wildcats at home. This one will be in Ogden and Weber State will have the advantage of a bye week to get ready.

## Can venerable McBride help Wildcats stop Montana's amazing run through Sky?

By MIKE SORENSEN  
*The (Salt Lake City) Deseret News*

Ron McBride wasn't ready to retire, even if he was 65 years old. So after a successful 13-year stint at the University of Utah, where he won 88 games and three bowls, and two years as an assistant at Kentucky, McBride came back to Utah and took over the reins of a beleaguered Weber State program.

In just his first year in Ogden, he took a program that was 1-10 the year before and picked to finish last to a winning season at 6-5 and within one game of a piece of the league championship.

Now in Year Two, McBride is hoping to take the Wildcats to the next level and perhaps into the Division I-AA playoffs for the first time since 1991. At his age, McBride isn't on any five-year plan. He wants to win now.

He'll have plenty of competition, especially from perennial Big Sky champion Montana, which has advanced to the I-AA playoffs 13 straight years and has won a share of the league title for eight consecutive seasons. Portland State has the talent to challenge for the league title, along with Eastern Washington, which has won a share of the past two championships.

**Montana** will be strong as usual with the return of running back Lex Hilliard, who ran for 1,322 yards and 12 touchdowns last year. Joining him on offense will be quarterback Josh Swogger, a transfer from Washington State, and receiver Craig Chambers, who transferred from Washington.

Defensively, the Grizzlies return seven starters, including defensive end Mike Murphy, linebacker Tyler Joyce, cornerbacks Tuff Harris and Jimmy Wilson and safety Torrey Thomas. Punter Tyson Johnson and placekicker Dan Carpenter, both second-team all-league selections last year, give Montana one of the country's top kicking games.

**Weber State** has seven returning starters on offense, including the top returning quarterback

in the league, Ian Pizarro, who passed for 2,357 yards and 17 touchdowns last year. His leading receiver, Terry Larsen (39 catches), is also back.

The Wildcats have quite a stable of running backs led by Zach Hall, who was fourth in the league with 848 rushing yards in '05, and Adrian Conway, who ran for 560 yards before getting hurt.

Defense could be the big question mark, as Weber must replace seven starters, including three All-Big Sky performers. Former walk-on Tyler DeBry, who started all 11 games at roverback last year, and noseguard Derek Johnson return.

**Portland State** led the league in rushing last year, but lost running back Joe Rubin, who accounted for a league-leading 1,702 yards in 2005. The Vikings do have quarterback Sawyer Smith returning, along with New Mexico State transfer Mu'Ammar Ali at running back. Coach Tim Walsh begins his 14th year with an experienced squad that includes 43 lettermen, six offensive starters, six defensive starters plus the place-kicker and punter. Two of the strongest positions are the offensive line,

where all-conference talents Brennan Carvalho, Peter St. John and Derek Duff are back, and cornerback, which has all-league players Dominic Dixon and Odell Jackson returning.

**Eastern Washington** may

have a hard time repeating as

Big Sky champs after losing

Walter Payton Award-winning

quarterback Erik Meyer and All-

America receiver Eric Kimble.

Coach Paul Wulff is happy to have running back Ryan Cole, who ran for 879 yards and 14 touchdowns last season, along with 13 other starters. However, he has big holes to fill, not only at quarterback and receiver but at linebacker and cornerback.

where the Eagles lost the Big Sky's co-Defensive Player of the Year, Joey Cwik. A pair of all-conference safeties, Bryant Jarrett and Brandon Keeler, will anchor the defense.

**Idaho State** is counting on Michigan transfer Matt Gutierrez to take over at quarterback. He'll have several top targets, including Eddie Thompson, a second-team all-league selection in '05. The backfield looks strong with running backs Josh Barnett and Ken Cornist, who combined for 1,576 yards and 19 touchdowns last year.

The offense will be untested as the four-year starter at QB, Travis Lulay, has graduated, along with his three top receivers. Junior Cory Carpenter and Hawaii transfer Jack Rolovich battled in the spring, with Carpenter gaining the edge going into the fall.

**Northern Arizona** has nowhere to go but up after a 1-6 last-place finish in 2005. Jason Murrieta has started for three years at quarterback, including an MVP season in 2003, and has a couple of talented receivers in Alex Watson and Kory Mohr.

On defense, cornerback K.J. Gerard was a second-team all-league selection last year after nabbing four interceptions. Linebacker Chris Hunsaker earned honorable-mention all-league honors. Punter Rhian Madrid, who averaged 43 yards per kick last season, leads the special teams.

**Sacramento State's** strength should come on the defensive side, where 10 starters return, including safeties Brett Shelton and Brent Webster and defensive linemen Walter Brock and Mike Brannon.

Running back Ryan Mole rushed for 1,626 yards in his first two

seasons and was a second-team all-league selection last year. But the Hornets will need to find a quarterback among juco transfer Tim Brockwell, holdover Crosby Wehr and freshman Austin Stanford.

**Northern Colorado** joins the Big Sky this year and will play a full league schedule, although the Bears won't be eligible for the championship. Scott Downing, a former Nebraska assistant, has taken over as coach and he'll have some talent to work with, including Andre Wilson, who rushed for 1,034 yards last year, receiver Andy Birkel (50 receptions) and linebacker Jake Duren (103 tackles).



Lex Hilliard, Montana

On defense, co-Big Sky Player-of-the-Year Jeff Charleston is gone, but all-conference linebacker Pago Togafau anchors a defense that ranked second in the league and has six starters returning. The Bengals will miss All-America kicker Jaret Johnson, who made 17 of 19 field goal tries last season.

**Montana State**, one of three teams to tie for the league title last year, has seven returning starters, led by safety Ryan Force and linebacker Epikopo King, who ranked second and third, respectively, in tackles in 2005. Aaron Papich and Clive Lowe give needed experience to the defensive line.



## PREDICTIONS

1. Coastal Carolina
2. Charleston Southern
3. Gardner Webb

4. Liberty
5. VMI

## TOP PLAYERS

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Offense  | Collin Drafts, QB, Charleston Southern |
| Defense  | Jamar Leath, LB, Coastal Carolina      |
| Newcomer | Jamar Anderson, WR, Coastal Carolina   |

## Chanticleers hope to erase memories of bitter Charleston Southern loss with first NCAA bid

By GARY McCANN  
The (Rock Hill, S.C.) Herald

The Big South Conference got some good news over the summer when Presbyterian College, an NCAA Division II program looking to move up to Division I-AA, applied for admission to the league and was accepted.

That gives the Big South six football playing members, meaning the conference has enough teams to qualify for an automatic berth in the I-AA football playoffs. The bad news is that can't happen until 2011, when Presbyterian, which finished 10-2 last year, becomes eligible for conference and NCAA championships.

In the meantime, it will be business as usual for a league still hoping to land an at-large spot in the postseason. It could have happened last year, but Coastal Carolina, which beat 2004 I-AA champ James Madison during the regular season, gave away a two-touchdown lead in the final 2:49, including the tying score with no time on the clock, and lost to Charleston Southern 34-27 in double overtime (one of three OT games for the Chanticleers) in the last game of the regular season.

The Chants and Bucs tied for first place, which was a good thing for the overall football picture in the league. But the loss cost Coastal a shot at a Top 25 national ranking and an at-large spot in the playoffs. Instead of finishing with a gaudy 10-1 record, the Chants ended 9-2 with nowhere to go for the second straight season.

Charleston Southern finished 7-4, the best campaign in school history.

It's likely this season's league title will come down to Nov. 18, when Coastal hosts the Bucs in the regular-season finale.

Before that, the Big South hopes to make some I-AA waves, playing nine games against the perennially powerful Southern Conference, including Gardner-Webb hosting defending national champion Appalachian State.

Coastal Carolina is 25-8 in three seasons under Coach David Bennett, who started the program from scratch, and all that's missing is that playoff spot. Bennett has a senior-laden squad (35) this season, including quarterback Tyler Thigpen (1,589 yards, 11 TDs), first-team all-conference offensive lineman Brad Poston, linebacker Jamar Leath (108 tackles) and kicker Josh Hoke (38-of-38 PATs, 14 for-22 FGs), who led the league in kick scoring.

Also back are second-team all-league running back Aundres Perkins (12 TDs) and wide receiver Jerome Simpson, whose 33 catches, 527 receiving yards and nine touchdowns were all single-season school records. Perkins averaged 5.1 yards per carry and had two TDs or more in five games. Simpson, a sophomore, is already the school's all-time leader in receptions (59), receiving yards (946) and touchdowns (17).

Defensive linemen Adrain Grady (48 tackles, 3.5 sacks) and defensive back Sergio Geiger (30 tackles, 2 interceptions) also return.

Keep an eye on 6-0, 185-pound freshman wide receiver Jamar Anderson, who could team with Simpson to form a potent one-two punch.

Bennett must replace leading rusher Patrick Hall and the middle of the offensive line, but one of the team's strengths has been depth, so filling the holes shouldn't be a problem.

The Chanticleers led the league in total defense (337.5 ypg) and turnover margin last year, and that side of the ball will be the key this season. Seven of the top 10 tacklers return, led by Leath, who should make a run at Big South Defensive Player of the Year after finishing third in the voting last season.

Last year's finish earned Coach Jay Mills a multiyear contract extension at **Charleston Southern**. In three years under Mills, the Bucs are just 13-20,

## GAME TO WATCH: 11/18/06 Charleston Southern @ Coastal Carolina

Coastal had a dream season ruined at Charleston Southern last year, losing 34-27 in double OT after blowing a two-TD lead with 2:49 to play

but have improved steadily from 1-11 to 5-5 to 7-4.

Mills, the 2005 Big South Coach of the Year, has 16 starters back from a team that closed last season on a five-game winning streak. If not for a surprising loss at VMI, the Bucs might have won the league outright and been knocking on that I-AA playoff door.

Mills welcomes back quarterback Collin Drafts, the league's 2005 Offensive Player of the Year who owns every school passing record, including total yards (7,103) and TDs (52). Last year, the 6-3, 198-pound senior threw for 2,544 yards, 20 TDs and completed 61 percent of his passes.

The top two rushers from last year, Andre Copeland (league-leading 721 yards, 7 TDs) and Robert Adams (356 yards), are back to run behind a line anchored by returning starters Rick Howell and Alex Bragg. First-team all-league wide receiver Maurice Price (72 catches, 1,043 yards, 7 TDs) is also back.

Defensively, the Bucs have to fill some holes up front, but last season's Defensive Player of the Year, Jada Ross (128 tackles), returns along with fellow linebackers Josh Mitchell (86) and Jonna Lee (62) and every starter in the secondary.

Once the league's dominant team, **Gardner-Webb** is playing catch-up with Coastal and Charleston Southern. Coach Steve Patton's Runnin' Bulldogs finished a disappointing 5-6 last year and lost to Coastal and Charleston Southern.

Patton returns 18 players who started games last year, but loses quarterback Nick Roberts. Devin Campbell, a 6-4 sophomore, is the likely heir at QB after throwing for 779 yards and seven TDs last season, and he should have a good target in Duvaughn Flagler (55 catches, 826 yards, 13 TDs), who led the league in receiving yards per game (75.1).

Demario Deese, who made all-conference as a freshman, anchors the offensive line.

Defensively, the Bulldogs need to get much better after giving up a league-high 33.4 points per game and ranking last in pass defense (225.1 ypg) and total defense (433.4).

All-conference defensive end Brian Johnston and defensive backs Daniel Cooke (99 tackles, 4 INTs) and Xavier Wallace (33, 2) are back, but there are big questions on the defensive line and at linebacker.

One of the first moves new Coach Danny Rocco made after taking over at **Liberty** was to junk the 4-3 defense the Flames used under former Coach Ken Karcher in favor of the 3-4 alignment he'd learned under Al Groh with the New York Jets and at Virginia.

With linebackers easier to come by than big, strong defensive linemen, Rocco thinks that plays into the strength of his personnel. Three of Liberty's top six tacklers return from last year's 1-10 team (0-4 Big South), and all are linebackers—Manny Rojas (102 tackles), Brandon Duke (62) and Nick Hursky (58).

But Liberty's biggest problems last year were on offense. They averaged just 13.3 points per game (last in the league) and ranked at the bottom in rushing offense (111.9 ypg). And that makes the switch of leading rusher Zach Terrel (668 yards), a first-team all-conference pick, to QB an interesting one.

Another new coach Jim Reid, takes over a VMI program that was 3-8 (2-2 Big South) last year and 19-60 in seven seasons under predecessor Cal McCombs. Reid led Richmond to 48 wins in nine seasons and I-AA playoff appearances in 1998 and 2000 before taking assistant jobs at Syracuse and Bucknell. Reid at least knows the I-AA landscape, but he's going to have to find some talented players ready and willing to play for a military school. Seven Keydets made all-conference last year, but six of them were seniors. Defensive end Eric Hall (54 tackles, 5 sacks) is the lone all-conference player returning.

**TOP PLAYERS**

- Offense** Eric Sanders, QB, Northern Iowa  
**Defense** Cameron Siskowic, LB, Illinois State  
**Newcomer** Aaron Miller, LB, Western Illinois

**PREDICTIONS**

1. Northern Iowa
2. Illinois State
3. Youngstown State
4. Southern Illinois
5. Western Kentucky
6. Western Illinois
7. Missouri State
8. Indiana State

## Sensational Sanders gives Northern Iowa the upper hand in always-tough Gateway

By RANDY REINHARDT

Bloomington (Ill.) Pantagraph

Five teams finished within a game of the Gateway Conference title in 2005. Three of those squads were co-champions, while two were selected for the Division I-AA playoffs.

Yet it was only Northern Iowa that emerged from the Gateway meat grinder to enjoy post-season success. The Panthers advanced to the national championship game before falling to Appalachian State.

The quarterback who cemented his reputation as an All-American returns for the Panthers, and junior Eric Sanders gives Northern Iowa a major asset in what figures to be another highly competitive Gateway race.

Illinois State and Youngstown State appear to have the best opportunity to challenge the Panthers, while recent contenders Southern Illinois and Western Kentucky should not be counted out.

The Gateway welcomes back an old friend in new Missouri State Coach Terry Allen, who had a highly successful run at Northern Iowa before spending five years as coach at Kansas.

This will be Eric Sanders' Northern Iowa team. His spectacular 2005 season showed the QB is capable of carrying a Panthers squad that has some question marks to more Gateway glory. Sanders completed more than 68 percent of his passes in Northern Iowa's 11-4 campaign, while tossing 23 TD passes and a mere five interceptions in 312 attempts.

The offensive line will be stout, with I-A transfers Jason Fiacco and Brandon Keith joining returning starters Barrett Anderson, Joe Lobdall, Tyler Rawlins and Chad Rinehart. The Panthers need to rebuild their receiving corps and either Corey Lewis or Derrick Law must emerge as a dependable tailback.

Cornerbacks Dre Dokes and Curtis Cooper and safety Chris Parsons are back in the secondary, but the rest of the defense is

unsettled. Kicker Brian Winger and punter Adam Kos return.

Illinois State welcomes back several components from an offense that averaged 39.2 points last season. Quarterback Luke Drone went from unproven first-year starter to star in a 2,930-yard passing season. Wide receiver Laurent Robinson turned in an All-America season with 86 catches for 1,465 yards to earn honors as Gateway Offensive Player of the Year. Tailback Pierre Rembert rushed for 801 yards.

An offensive line must deal with the effects of losing four-year starters Mike Stegeman and Stafford Davis and hope tackle Barry Hartman's creaky back allows him to be effective.

The Redbird defense lost one Buck Buchanan Award candidate in sack-master end Brent Hawkins, but returns another in relentless linebacker Cameron Siskowic. Defensive backs James Temple and Jesse Caesar are proven players.

The Illinois State kicking game was a season-long problem in 2005 that appears yet to be solved, and the graduation of standout Ryan Hoffman means the Redbirds also are in the market for a punter.

At Youngstown State, the Penguins' waddle will be a highly motivated one after getting passed over for a playoff bid last year despite a Gateway co-championship and an 8-3 regular-season mark. A depth chart featuring 26 seniors means Youngstown State should be challenging for a postseason spot again. Quarterback Tom Zetts and tailbacks Monquanta Gibson and Marcus Mason provide a nice pass-run mix behind a seasoned offensive line. Two former Big Ten Conference players in tight end Louis Irizarry and wide receiver Miles Williams could make a good offense significantly better with big contributions as newcomers. Jason Perry and Codera Jackson could be the league's top cornerback duo.

**GAME TO WATCH: 11/18/06, Illinois State @ Northern Iowa**

The final regular-season game for both teams could have conference championship and playoff implications. Illinois State throttled the then-13th-ranked Panthers, 38-3, at home last season, but quarterback Eric Sanders missed the game with an injury.

With the rest of the league uttering a relieved "finally," Southern Illinois must look elsewhere at quarterback after the graduation of four year starter Joel Sambursky. The new starter—junior Nick Hill is the front-runner but junior-college transfer Justin Allen could be a factor—will enjoy the presence of four returning starters on an offensive line led by all-conference center Will Justice.

Tailback Arkee Whillock is an obvious All-America candidate after rushing for 1,454 yards and 14 touchdowns last season.

A fourth straight playoff appearance depends on successfully replacing nine defensive starters, including all four linemen and two linebackers. Western Michigan transfer Blake Sims should help safeties Marlon Heaston and Patrick Jordan in the secondary.

Southern has won or shared the past three Gateway championships.

Western Kentucky was cruising along as the top-ranked team in the nation with four weeks remaining in the 2005 regular season. The pleasure cruise turned into a shipwreck, as four straight losses extracted the Hilltoppers from conference-championship contention and snapped a string of four consecutive playoff appearances.

Coach David Elson's team has a solid foundation in quarterback Justin Haddix and 1,000-yard tailback Lerron Moore being among eight returning starters on offense. The line also should be strong, but there are receiver positions available for immediate occupancy.

The Hilltoppers' 3-4 defense lost all three starting linemen and two outside linebackers. Safety Marion Rumph and linebacker Jenkins Reese are defensive stalwarts. Placekicker Chris James is considered a real weapon after converting 15 of 17 field-goal attempts and all 42 extra-point tries in 2005.

Western Illinois boasts efficient quarterback Steve LaFalce,

who completed 67.4 percent of his passes last season, and a deep threat in receiver Marco Thomas. Tackle Chad Walker is among the conference's top blockers and one of four returning starters up front. Alex Douglas is the leading candidate to take over for running back Travis Glasford, who graduated as the school's all-time rushing leader.

The Leathernecks' defense will benefit from having the same coordinator (Tom Casey) return for the first time in three seasons. And improvement is needed from a unit that surrendered 33.7 points per game. Safety Kevin Almire and linebacker Aaron Miller are junior-college transfers likely to make an immediate impact.

New Coach Terry Allen, who will use a pro-style offense and a 4-3 defense, guided Northern Iowa to seven Gateway crowns and seven playoff berths in a tenure that ended in 1996. That's the kind of success yearned for at Missouri State, where the Bears have not won a conference title or appeared in the playoffs since 1990.

Allen says he wants to be solid on defense, fundamentally sound on special teams and have fun on offense. There will, of course, be trials of transition. But Missouri State expects 27 seniors on its fall roster and returns seven starters on offense and 10 on defense.

Quarterback Scott Carroll spent the spring tossing fastballs for the Bears' baseball team, but will be back to spirals in the fall. Four starters on the offensive line are back to block for Carroll. Led by Mike Radon, the entire secondary returns and linebackers Derrick Byrd and Kevin Sears were the team's top two tacklers last season.

Second-year Indiana State Coach Lou West is still seeking his first win after an 0-11 debut season in Terre Haute. The first order of business must be making significant improvements to a defense that coughed up 43.3 points per game.



## Top trio will battle for league crown, but look for Cal Poly Mustangs to prevail

By MATT MCKENZIE  
Street & Smith's Staff Writer

One of the smallest Division I-AA football conferences just may also be the most talented.

The Great West Conference now only has five members, after Northern Colorado bolted this offseason for the Big Sky. But of those five, three are ranked in Street & Smith's I-AA preseason Top 25 poll.

Last year, Cal Poly and UC Davis tied for the league crown, but the postseason slot went to Cal Poly, which had a better overall record. The Mustangs became the first California school to make the I-AA playoffs, then earned respect by beating Montana on the road before falling to Texas State in the quarterfinals.

"We're trying to establish that we can compete in I-A and show that the difference in competition between the two divisions isn't that great," Cal Poly Coach Rich Ellerson says.

Cal Poly, North Dakota State and UC Davis all have viable shots to take the Great West title this year. But with such a small league, it's going to be difficult to make it through the conference season without a loss, meaning another shared crown is more than likely.

The players at Cal Poly saw new faces in the spring—both on and off the field. The Mustangs not only lost their top defensive player in 2005 Buck Buchanan Award winner Chris Gocong, but three assistant coaches as well. Ian Shields is now the head coach at Eastern Oregon; David Brown left to take an assistant job at Ohio; and Jeff Hammerschmidt joined the Stanford staff.

However, Coach Rich Ellerson was quick to replace them, and has one of the top running backs in the nation returning in James Noble. In his first season with the Mustangs, Noble had 1,578 yards (which ranked third in Division I-AA) and scored 16 touchdowns. He was a key component in Cal Poly's run to

### PREDICTIONS

1. Cal Poly
2. North Dakota State
3. UC Davis

4. South Dakota State
5. Southern Utah

### TOP PLAYERS

- |          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| Offense  | James Noble, RB, Cal Poly   |
| Defense  | Kyle Shotwell, LB, Cal Poly |
| Newcomer | P.J. Vallier, RB, UC Davis  |

### GAME TO WATCH: 10/29/06: Cal Poly @ UC Davis

The winner of this in-state rivalry also gets the "Golden Horseshoe." The Aggies have won six of the last nine, including a 20-13 victory last year.

The Bison led the Great West in total defense (272.4 yards a game), and have a strong chance to repeat. Although ends Isaac Lavant and Alvin Robinson are gone, NDSU has strength returning in defensive tackle Justin Frick, linebacker Joe Mays and strong safety Craig Dahl. Frick and Mays were all-conference selections last season.

It could be argued that UC Davis had one of its most successful seasons in 2005. The Aggies (6-5) continued their streak of 36 consecutive winning seasons, captured a share of their Great West title for the first time and handed Stanford its first-ever loss to a Division I-AA team.

But UC Davis was on the outside looking in when the I-AA playoff teams were announced, and will have to work even harder for a selection now that the Great West no longer has an automatic bid. Senior quarterback Jon Grant will play a huge role in determining the Aggies fate. As a junior, Grant led the conference in passing yards per game (261.2). No other Great West QB threw for more than 200 yards per game.

Grant's favorite target, senior Tony Kays, is also back. Kays' 93 catches and 1,213 receiving yards last season were school records. However, the Aggies would like the 6-1, 188-pound wide receiver to find the end zone more, as Kays had just three TDs last season. The Aggies' glaring weakness is their running game, where they averaged just 99.4 yards a contest. Senior Nelson Doris was the best of the bunch (328 yards).

As bad as the Aggies' ground offense performed, their rushing defense was just as good. UC Davis allowed only 87.5 rushing yards a game, second among all Division I-AA teams. Three of the Aggies' front four return, including end John Faletose and tackle James Amos, who combined for 22 tackles for loss and 10 sacks last season. The secondary is solid as well, led by defensive backs Nevan Bergen (league-leading 7 interceptions) and Adam Cook (4).

Don't accuse South Dakota State of shying away from a challenge. The Jackrabbits managed a 6-5 record last season with a schedule that featured five teams ranked in the I-AA Top 25. This year is no easier, with such tough non-conference opponents as McNeese State, Montana, Nicholls State and Northern Iowa.

Senior Ryan Berry and sophomore Andy Kardoes split time at quarterback last season, with neither proving to be too effective. The duo combined for just 1,562 yards and 13 touchdowns while throwing a collective 15 picks. South Dakota State's strength was on the ground, as Cory Koenig (987 yards, 8 TDs) and Anthony Watson (908, 10) finished fourth and fifth, respectively, among Great West rushers. Junior Parker Douglass was the league's top kicker in 2005 with 19 field goals.

Defensively, SDSU will have to replace six starters. Linebackers Hank Goff (5 sacks) and Marty Krantz (56 tackles) are among the best of the returning players.

Southern Utah suffered through a tough 1-9 season last year, as the Thunderbirds ranked last in the Great West for total offense (275.9 ypg), scoring offense (12.6 ppg) and points allowed (32.8 a game). The latter is what Coach Wes Meier needs to address most, but losing six starters on defense doesn't help.

At quarterback, the battle is between Wes Marshall, a part-time starter last season, and New Mexico State transfer Royal Gill. After the Thunderbirds' spring game, Meier said he wouldn't name a starting QB until the fall.

Southern Utah needs improvement in its running game, as the team finished last in the league with just 707 rushing yards and only three touchdowns.

Senior Joey Hew Len, who transferred from Hawaii two years ago, is the team's top returning wideout.

**TOP PLAYERS**

Offense	Clifton Dawson, RB, Harvard
Defense	Zak DeOssie, LB, Brown
Newcomer	Ryan Fodor, QB, Yale

**PREDICTIONS**

1. Harvard
2. Brown
3. Penn
4. Princeton

5. Yale
6. Cornell
7. Columbia
8. Dartmouth

## Dawson eyes all-time Ivy rushing record and league title for Harvard Crimson

By STEVE SILVERMAN

Street &amp; Smith's Correspondent

It was the best of years for the Brown Bears in 2005.

While the league title was expected to belong to Harvard or Penn, the Bears roiled to a 6-1 conference record, finishing as the undisputed Ivy League champions.

The 2006 season is likely to be a dogfight among Brown, Harvard and Penn—but give Harvard the early edge.

The Crimson can now boast having the league's outstanding player in Clifton Dawson, a sharp running back whom NFL scouts will keep their eyes on throughout the season. Dawson is not only an extremely productive running back, he is clearly one of the Crimson's top leaders and more than willing to carry the team on his strong shoulders.

Brown Coach Phil Estes is not about to have his team surrender easily, though. While the Bears lose the 2005 Ivy League Player of the Year in outstanding running back Nick Hartigan (1,727 yards and 20 touchdowns), quarterback Joseph DiGiacomo returns after passing for 1,800 yards and 16 touchdowns.

**Harvard** (7-3 overall, 5-2 Ivy in 2005) appears to have the makings of an offensive juggernaut with running back Clifton Dawson and quarterback Liam O'Hagan. Dawson ran for 1,139 yards on 258 carries and scored 11 touchdowns a year ago, making life much easier for O'Hagan in his first year as the Crimson starter. O'Hagan took over for Ryan Fitzpatrick (who played well as a rookie for the St. Louis Rams) and completed 157 of 262 passes for 2,005 yards with 15 touchdown passes, but will have to cut down on the interceptions (13).

That multifaceted attack should make Harvard dangerous all season long. If Dawson can maintain the same kind of pace he had last year, the senior will break Ed Marinaro of Cornell's ancient Ivy League record and

become the conference's all-time leading rusher.

Another plus for the Crimson is the play of the defensive line. First-team All-Ivy League defensive tackle Michael Berg is a legitimate All-America candidate who leads a veteran group up front. Two starters return from last year and there's plenty of depth.

Linebacker Matt Thomas is back to anchor the defense.

**Brown** (9-1, 6-1) did something in 2005 that it had never done throughout its history: win the Ivy League title outright.

Coach Phil Estes, whose team also shared the Ivy title in 1999, made history by riding the strong rushing of running back Nick Hartigan. Hartigan has moved on, but the Bears are not about to roll over and give their Ivy League title away. Brown returns five starters on offense and six on defense, and that total includes five All-Ivy League selections.

Brown will look to the other side of the ball and senior linebacker Zak DeOssie as its way back to the title. DeOssie recorded 80 tackles and five sacks last season, and is a strong candidate this year for the Buck Buchanan Award.

On offense, Joseph DiGiacomo's 3,314 career passing yards and 233 career completions rank him fourth and fifth, respectively, in Brown history.

Hartigan will clearly be missed at running back, but Brandon Markey will try to step in. He ran for 145 yards and a touchdown on 29 attempts last year, and displayed speed and the agility on special teams.

**Penn's** (5-5, 3-4) slip and fall into the Ivy League's nether regions was as shocking as it was unexpected. The Quakers were cruising along with five wins in six games and were challenging Brown and Harvard for the Ivy League lead. Then Al Bagnoli saw his team drop a 34-20 decision at Brown and Penn never recovered, losing its last four.

**GAME TO WATCH: 09/23/06: Harvard @ Brown**

How about saving the best for first? The Crimson goes for the sixth straight series win over the Bears in the Ivy League opener.

Don't expect the Quakers to repeat that kind of finish this year. They should be able to do quite a bit of damage on offense, despite losing QB Pat McDermott. In his place steps junior Bryan Walker, who played in six games last season, throwing for 382 yards and four TDs.

But Walker should get some help from running back Joe Sandberg, who was the team's second-leading rusher last year with 399 yards for a 5.3 yards-per-carry mark and three touchdowns. Wideout Dan McDonald showed signs of becoming a big-time player last year, catching 29 passes for 504 yards and three TDs.

**Princeton** (7-3, 5-2) rounds out the top half of the Ivy League. The Tigers finished a surprising third behind Brown and Harvard and will now attempt to win their first league title in 12 years. Coach Roger Hughes should have plenty to work with on offense, but there is little doubt that the Tigers will miss defensive back Jay McCareins on the other side of the ball. McCareins, the brother of New York Jets wide receiver Justin McCareins, led I-AA with nine interceptions last year, including two returned for touchdowns.

Quarterback Jeff Terrell was not a dominant player last season, with a touchdown/interception ratio of 10/13, but he did enough to warrant confidence from the coaching staff and his teammates. Running back Rob Toresco, who ran for 611 yards and four touchdowns, is back to lead the rushing attack, while tight end Jon Dekker appears to be the go-to receiver after leading the Tigers with 32 catches in 2005.

**Yale** (4-6) Coach Jack Siedlecki could have one of the surprise teams in the conference following a 4-3 league record last year.

The Bulldogs return 18 starters—nine on offense, seven on defense and both kickers—so the team has experience and depth. Quarterback Jeff Mroz has

moved on and Matt Polhemus will most likely be the starter unless sophomore Ryan Fodor unseats him. The backfield has one-two punch potential with sophomore Mike McLeod (689 yards, 6 TDs), the 2005 Ivy League Rookie of the Year, and senior Jordan Spence at running back. On the defensive side, Lee Driftmier returns as the team's leader at linebacker.

There's plenty of confidence around the **Cornell** (6-4, 4-3) program following last year's consistent play. Coach Jim Knowles believes his team has a shot at the conference title and the offensive line is the primary reason for his confidence.

Four starters from an offensive line that helped the Big Red rank eighth in the country in rushing offense (248.6 yards per game) return to the lineup, as does first-team All-Ivy League running back Luke Siwula, who rushed for 1,086 yards and eight touchdowns in his first year as a starter.

There are questions about the defense, but the line looks strong because three of four starters return to a group that allowed just 88.3 rushing yards per game.

Norries Wilson made history when he was named coach of the **Columbia Lions** (2-8, 0-7). He is the first African-American head coach in the history of Ivy League football. Wilson was the offensive coordinator at UConn for the past four seasons, where he oversaw an offense that posted 477.5 yards per game in 2003. While Wilson is enthused about taking over the Columbia program, he inherits a team that went 2-8 last season and finished the year on an eight-game losing streak. The Lions allowed 33.7 points per game and 236.4 rushing yards a game in 2005.

Buddy Teevens returned home to Hanover, N.H., in hopes of reigniting a **Dartmouth** (2-8, 1-6) program that has fallen on hard times. Teevens has a largely veteran team that includes 10 returning starters on offense and seven on defense.





## PREDICTIONS

1. Duquesne
2. Marist
3. La Salle
4. Iona
5. St. Peter's

## TOP PLAYERS

- |          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| Offense  | Obozua Ehikioya, RB, Marist |
| Defense  | Ryan Eisdale, DL, Duquesne  |
| Newcomer | Chris Ferguson, WR, Marist  |

## No doubt dominating Duquesne, as Dukes go for eighth straight crown

By STEVE AMEDIO

*Schenectady (N.Y.) Gazette*

Death, taxes and Duquesne football.

When it comes to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, the Dukes are about as certain as it gets. Winners of seven straight league titles, there isn't any reason at all to think that streak won't continue to grow in 2006.

The team seemed slightly vulnerable a year ago with some inexperienced players stepping up and a first-year coach, Jerry Schmitt, taking over the program. But Duquesne dominated the MAAC like it always does, running up another perfect record against league opponents and finishing 7-3 overall.

This season the Dukes have 14 starters back, including every offensive skill-position player. Schmitt answered any questions about his return to the program where he once served as an assistant by being named the 2005 MAAC Coach of the Year.

Just how dominant is Duquesne (4-0 MAAC) at its level? The Dukes come into the season having won 37 straight conference games, the longest active streak in the nation and third all-time among schools at the Division I-A and I-AA levels, behind only the 44-game streak of Oklahoma (Big Eight) from 1952-59 and the 39-game streak by Nebraska (Big Eight/Big 12) from 1992-98.

Offensively, quarterback Scott Knapp, who won the 2005 MAAC Offensive Rookie of the Year after passing for 1,337 yards and 10 TDs as a redshirt freshman, is back and healthy. He missed the final three games of last season with a shoulder injury. Knapp's backup, sophomore Kevin Rombach, was nearly as effective, leading the Dukes to back-to-back victories in their final two contests.

Also returning are the tailback tandem of seniors James Jacobs and Jeremy McCullough (who had a combined 970 yards and 10 TDs in 2005) and sophomore fullback Greg Hough.

Duquesne brings back 10 of its 12 leaders in receptions from last season, including junior Alex Roberson (31 catches, 504 yards) and senior Dan Spriggs (27, 419).

The key areas of concern are on both lines. Duquesne lost three starters on the offensive line, while two linemen and two linebackers graduated from a defensive unit that was ranked first in Division I-AA last season for total defense, rushing defense and pass-efficiency defense.

"We'd like to keep the streak going, but our first goal is to win the conference," Schmitt says. "So I guess the two kind of fall hand-in-hand."

Marist (7-4, 3-1) has been solid for several years, but took a step beyond that in 2005, matching a program record for victories in a season. Whether the Red Foxes can take another step forward and provide a legitimate challenge to Duquesne likely depends on one major question: Who replaces graduated quarterback James Luft?

The Red Foxes didn't have another signal-caller who threw a pass last season. Senior Michael Sangiorgi probably gets a look, as will several younger and inexperienced possibilities. There aren't any questions about the team's running game, though, not with returning junior Obozua Ehikioya (1,017 yards, 17 TDs), one of five MAAC players named to the 2005 I-AA Mid-Major All-America Team.

Whoever does wind up at QB will have a quality target in wide receiver Prince Prempeh (27 catches, 361 yards). All but one of the starting offensive linemen return, as does the nucleus of a strong defense led by lineman Tim Aulet (36 tackles, 6 sacks) and safeties Huck Correia (a 2005 first-team All-MAAC pick) and Nick Salis.

The spread offense produced big offensive numbers last year for La Salle (4-7, 2-2) in every place but in the win column. It remains to be seen if the Explorers will play a more traditional style under new Coach Tim Miller, who comes on board after former Coach Phil Longo and top assistant Peter Lue left to become assistants at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Not only have the program's top two coaches departed, but so too has the MAAC's 2005 Offensive Player of the Year, quarterback Michael Jump (2,607

contests by a point, another by a touchdown and were respectable against Duquesne, falling 31-17 to the Dukes.

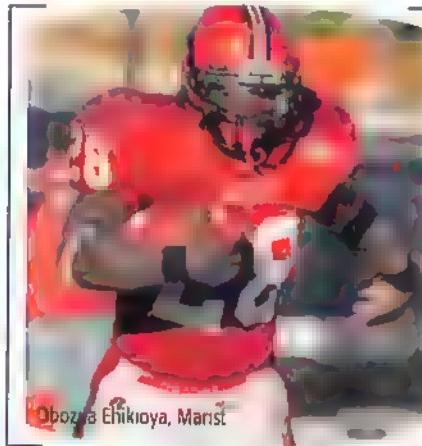
Whether Iona can reverse some of those close losses will depend on the progress of junior quarterback Michael Covino, a transfer from Fordham who will replace graduated standout Mike Biehl. The Gaels could also get a boost from a healthy return of senior running back Rudy Arcara (59 carries, 240 yards), who rushed for 1,125 yards as a sophomore in 2004.

Seniors Mike Rabbit and Chris Berg key the offensive line, and the Gaels have an All-MAAC placekicker in Chris Lofrèse, who made all four field goals he tried and was 19-of-20 on PATs. Defensively, senior linebacker Adam Lipski was a first-team All-MAAC pick last season, while junior lineman James McDonald was a second-team selection.

Once a solid program, St. Peter's (1-9, 0-4) has struggled in recent years, and it was particularly painful in 2005 when the Peacocks suffered six of their losses by three touchdowns or more.

If a turnaround is in the works, it might start this year with the return of the conference's most accurate quarterback in 2005—junior Scott Bonnomo, who completed 62.7 percent of his passes for 2,303 yards and 16 TDs last season. The Peacocks also have a bruising backfield in 5-10, 230-pound junior J.P. Larmore (52 carries, 270 yards) and 5-9, 215-pound senior Shaun Pliluse (46, 193).

Two of Bonnomo's favorite targets, sophomore Jaleel Kindell (56 catches, 525 yards) and senior John Bond (42, 745) also return. Paul Noel, a 5-11, 275-pound senior, is the top offensive lineman, while 5-10, 252-pound William Mitchell anchors the defensive line.



Obozua Ehikioya, Marist

yards, 22 TDs), who told school officials he would be transferring this summer. Also, at press time, La Salle was the only Division I-A or I-AA team that had not released its schedule.

Whatever the team does this season is likely to be centered around a solid ground attack featuring senior running back Kevin Sullivan, who led La Salle in rushing (105 carries, 610 yards) and receptions (62). The Explorers also return senior running back Josh Brumfield (62 carries, 363 yards) and receivers Bernie Cewis (26 catches, 499 yards) and senior Lou Russo (24, 239).

All-MAAC cornerbacks Mark Moraca and Randy Carpenter are back to anchor the defense.

Despite a gloomy record, there were some positive signs a year ago for Iona (3-7, 1-3). The Gaels lost one league

**TOP PLAYERS**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Alonzo Coleman</b> , RB, Hampton
<b>Defense</b>	<b>Justin Durant</b> , LB, Hampton
<b>Newcomer</b>	<b>Casey Hansen</b> , QB, Norfolk State

**PREDICTIONS**

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Hampton              | 6. Norfolk State      |
| 2. South Carolina State | 7. Howard             |
| 3. Delaware State       | 8. Morgan State       |
| 4. Florida A&M          | 9. North Carolina A&T |
| 5. Bethune-Cookman      |                       |



## Hampton should make it a three in a row, but will Pirates cure their postseason woes?

By LUT WILLIAMS  
Black College Sports Page

Hampton claimed its second consecutive MEAC title last season, and the Pirates' regular-season record of 8-0 in the MEAC and 11-0 overall was their best since moving up to I-AA in 1995. But there's one thing the Pirates didn't do and that's win a playoff game.

Despite finishing No. 2 in the final regular-season I-AA poll, Coach Joe Taylor's troops were thwarted in the first round of the national playoffs for the second straight year. Their embarrassing 38-10 loss to Richmond had to leave Taylor wondering if the formula that works in the MEAC translates to the national scene, where the Pirates are 0-4 in I-AA postseason play.

Enter Chris Beatty, a former Virginia Beach area high school coach whose wide-open offense produced numerous state-championship teams. However, offense may not be the problem. The Pirates' vaunted defense gave up 592 total yards in losing to William & Mary in the 2004 playoffs and another 251 rushing yards to Richmond.

While Hampton seeks to right its postseason wrongs, other teams may be gaining on it. South Carolina State beat everybody in the league except Hampton for the second year in a row, but was kept out of the playoffs despite a 9-2 finish. Delaware State, which handed Hampton its only conference loss in '04, made another leap forward under second-year Coach Al Lavan, posting its first winning season since 2000.

First-year Norfolk State Coach Pete Adrian had an impressive debut, leading the Spartans (4-7) to wins in three of their final four games. Former Texas A&M assistant Lee Fobbs debuts this season as the new coach at North Carolina A&T.

If the coaching staff can find better use of star running back Alonzo Coleman, perhaps it will be enough to get Hampton (11-1 overall,

8-0 MEAC) a playoff win. For now, Coleman's three straight 1,000-yard rushing seasons (1,326 and 19 TDs in 2005) leave him less than 250 yards away from Montrell Coley's all-time school rushing mark.

The Pirates will have to get more from quarterbacks Princeton Shepherd and Antwan Smith, who combined for just 155.4 passing yards per game. There's talent at wide receiver in Onrea Jones and Virginia Tech transfer Jeremy Gilchrist, who starred for Beatty in high school. Andrew Paterini (104 points) is the league's best placekicker.

Linebacker Justin Durant (124 tackles) repeated as MEAC Defensive Player of the Year, while up front, all-conference linemen Micah Littlejohn and Kendal Langford (4.5 sacks, 15.5 tackles for loss) are joined by tackle Marcus Dixon, who may be the best of the bunch.

It appears first-team All-MEAC quarterback Cleveland McCoy (1,692 passing yards, 13 TDs) will again lead **South Carolina State** (9-2, 7-1) in its quest to unseat Hampton. Coach Buddy Pough has brought in three new assistants and is rearranging his offensive and defensive sets, an interesting move since S.C. State had the league's second-best offensive (34.4 points per game) and defensive (15.1) numbers.

Second-team All-MEAC running back DeShawn Baker (826 yards, 10 TDs) is the returning rushing leader. Wide receivers Kelley King and Chris Burgess (4 TDs) are back as prime targets. The Bulldogs will sport perhaps the conference's most experienced offensive line, led by all-league selections in senior Clyde Reed and redshirt sophomore Raymond Harrison.

Defensive lineman Eric Turner and safety Marshall McFadden will provide leadership for a unit that lost seven starters.

Coach Al Lavan has performed a minor miracle in two years at **Delaware State** (7-4,

### GAME TO WATCH: 10/21/06: Hampton @ South Carolina State

The games between these teams over the last two years have determined the MEAC title. It also matches the league's top two returning backs in Hampton's Alonzo Coleman and S.C. State's DeShawn Baker

6-2), inheriting the team after a 1-10 campaign in 2003 and getting them to a third-place finish last year. But after losing 10 starters, he'll have to work some real magic for the Hornets to stay competitive.

Their defense ranked fifth in the nation last season (269.6 ypg), but lost most of the standouts, including linebacker Sam Smith (league-leading 13.5 sacks) and punter Eric Contos (44.2-yard average).

Redshirt freshman QB Vashon Winton (1,489 passing yards, 8 TDs) was the 2005 MEAC Rookie of the Year, and his favorite target, wideout Shaheen McBride (720 yards, 6 TDs), was a 2005 first-team All-MEAC pick. Senior Emmanuel Marc is expected to be the new starter at tailback.

**Florida A&M** (6-5, 5-3) had a somewhat successful season under new Coach Rubin Carter, which was more impressive since he was hired 46 days before the first game of 2005. In eight games, QB Albert Chester set a new FAMU record for passing accuracy (71.8 percent) and was the MVP in the season-ending Florida Classic. Replacing 1,000-yard rusher Rashard Pompey will fall to either Anthony Edwards and Greg Arline. Roosevelt Kiser (league-leading 64 receptions) is also back.

All-conference pick Tyrone McGriff (6.5 sacks) and Joseph Wims are solid ends on a defensive unit that lost seven starters. Wesley Taylor led all I-AA teams in punting (45.9 average).

**Bethune-Cookman** (7-4, 4-4) fell to fifth in the conference last year, due in part to losses by just three points to both S.C. State and Florida A&M.

Linebacker Taurean Charles and safety Travis Roland head up a unit that was third in the conference in red-zone defense. Free safety Bobbie Williams' six interceptions tied for third best among all I-AA players.

Quarterback Jimmie Russell had a combined 1,761 yards and 17 TDs to earn second-team All-MEAC. He returns to lead

the league's best scoring offense (34.9 ppg) in 2005. Another double threat, wideout Eric Weems (1,011 yards and 14 TDs), is back for his senior year. Untested Chauncey Hampton will get the first look at tailback.

During his time as an assistant at Bethune-Cookman, **Norfolk State** Coach Pete Adrian was known to build strong defenses. In his first year with the Spartans (4-7, 2-6), he helped the team win more games in 2005 than the previous two years combined.

Returning starters such as All-MEAC tight end Jonathan Allen will help the Spartans. Former Colorado State QB Casey Hansen will replace Brandon Brooks (1,600 yards, 12 TDs). Linebacker Maguell Davis, the conference's second leading tackler (120) last year, spearheads the defense.

Ray Petty's first order of business at **Howard** (4-7, 1-7) is changing an offense that was last in the conference for scoring (15.7 ppg)—a job complicated by an inexperienced O-line and four unproven youngsters who will battle for the QB job.

As usual, the Bison defense (255.7 ypg) was the league's toughest. Six of the front seven starters are back. The Bison also have a strong weapon in running back Keon Coleman (770 yards).

**Morgan State** (2-9, 1-7) has the exact opposite problem of Howard. Coach Donald Hill's offense scored 22.5 points per game, but the defense gave up 34.1, worst in the league. Byron Selby was the only MEAC quarterback to top 2,000 passing yards last year.

**North Carolina A&T** (3-8, 2-6) embarks on a new era as longtime Division I-A assistant Lee Fobbs takes over for George Small. Fobbs inherits a team that dropped its last five games a year ago and lost most of its standout players. Senior running back Brandon Sweeney (877 yards, 8 TDs) is the top returnee on offense. Linebacker Montray Jackson had eight sacks in '05.



## Great Danes' non-league schedule should sharpen their bite for conference foes

By STEVE AMEDIO

Schenectady (N.Y.) Gazette

The University at Albany's football program doesn't exactly back away from challenges.

The Great Danes traditionally play one of the toughest non-league schedules of any Northeast Conference team, and this year is no exception with Cornell, Delaware, Fordham and Lehigh on their slate.

But if Albany survives those early battles, it should be better prepared when it returns to the competition of its own league, at least in theory.

It usually works in practice, too. The Danes have either won outright or shared the NEC crown two of the past four years. They just missed last season, finishing a game behind co-champions Central Connecticut State and Stony Brook. All three of those teams will challenge for the NEC this season, along with potential surprise St. Francis (Pa.).

With 17 returning starters, Albany (5-6 overall, 4-3 NEC) looks more than capable not only of returning to the top of the NEC, but maybe being competitive in its non-league schedule, too.

The Danes headed into spring practice without being set at quarterback, but have two solid and experienced candidates. Sophomore Daniel Bocanegra and senior Brett Hall each started games last year.

Whoever starts at QB will be protected by some massive linemen, including 6-6, 300-pound senior Jacob Anderson, an All-NEC pick last season. The running game is solid with a one-two tailback punch of Marcus Allen (594 rushing yards in 2005) and Omar Johnson (385), and 6-2, 230-pound fullback Dan Beigel. A strong receiving group also returns, led by Irani DeAraujo (34 catches, 368 yards).

Defensively, junior linebacker Colin Disch was named the NEC's top defender last year, recording more than 100 tackles for the second straight season.

### PREDICTIONS

1. Albany
2. St. Francis (Pa.)
3. Stony Brook
4. Central Connecticut State

5. Monmouth
6. Wagner
7. Sacred Heart
8. Robert Morris

### TOP PLAYERS

- |          |                                       |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Offense  | Michael Caputo, WR, St. Francis (Pa.) |
| Defense  | Colin Disch, LB, Albany               |
| Newcomer | Dale Fink, QB, Sacred Heart           |

### GAME TO WATCH: 10/21/06: St. Francis @ Albany

Powered by prolific passing, St. Francis is poised to take a huge step forward this year, but will be tested by Albany's strong defense.

or less last year. Among the top returnees are linebacker Dan Michitsch, safety Richie Richards and defensive end Chris Merkle, who tied for second on the team in tackles last season as a freshman.

Defending NEC co-champ Central Connecticut State (7-4, 5-2) not only has a new coach in Jeff McInerney, but also replaced all but one on the entire coaching staff. However, the Blue Devils have plenty of returning experience on the field, starting with sophomore QB Aubrey Norris, last season's NEC Offensive Rookie of the Year. Norris passed for 917 yards and ran for an additional 330.

McInerney also has one of the league's top running backs in second-team All-NEC pick Jo Jo Freeman (162 rushes, 801 yards) and a strong receiver in senior Andre Smith (31 catches, 393 yards). Up front, 6-2, 315-pound senior Rich Ranglin and 6-2, 250-pound senior Eben Blanchard open holes.

Central Connecticut State also has last season's Defensive NEC Rookie of the Year in defensive back Anthony Wilson, who is part of what might be the league's top secondary, along with seniors Nigel Monge and Farod Muhammad. The Blue Devils did suffer significant graduation losses on both sides of the ball, including four players who were either first- or second-team all-league performers in 2005.

Monmouth (6-4, 4-3) also saw multiple players graduate, including Miles Austin, one of the NEC's top receivers last season, and four other first- or second-team All-NEC picks. The Hawks do return senior quarterback Brian Boland (2,334 yards and 21 TDs) and senior wide receiver Adam San Miguel, whose 51 catches led the team last season.

Also back on offense is junior tight end John Nalbone and 6-5, 250-pound offensive lineman Matt Connolly. Senior Mike Castellano is one of the best defensive players in the league, as is senior DB Matt Hicks. That

duo should be enough to keep the Hawks more than competitive again this season.

Wagner (6-5, 3-4) has plenty returning from a year ago and could compete for league honors if it can find a replacement for graduated quarterback John Sciarrà, who last year became the first player in NEC history to pass for more than 3,000 yards.

Sophomores Matt Abbey and Thomas Hammell were the backup QBs last year, but only threw five combined passes. The Seahawks have plenty of weapons otherwise, starting with senior wideout Chris Turner (66 catches, 952 yards) and junior Joseph Kinard (46, 504), the league's top tight end. Junior defensive backs Alfred Phillips, who led the conference in interceptions and pass breakups, and Jason Butler provide solid pass coverage.

Sacred Heart (4-6, 3-4) suffered through its first losing season last year since 1999, but has a chance of avoiding another one if its aerial attack continues to click. Senior quarterback Tyler Arclaga (2,394 yards) is back, along with receivers Alvin Franklin (31 catches, 405 yards) and Joey Henley (23, 383) and junior tight end Justin Jarry. Henley is a rare three-sport athlete who is also a standout for the Sacred Heart basketball and track teams. Seven of last season's 11 starters return for the Pioneers, led by 6-4, 235-pound senior defensive lineman William Hayden (56 tackles last season).

Former NEC power Robert Morris (2-8, 1-6) wasn't far removed from a .500 season last year, suffering five of its losses by a touchdown or less. But the loss of seniors, including Tyjuan Massey and Rupert Rickards (who, respectively, rank No. 1 and No. 2 on the program's career-reception list), will make it difficult for the Colonials to climb back. Some young talent is in place, though, including sophomore quarterback Erik Cwalinski, who looked impressive in three starts last season.



## TOP PLAYERS

Offense	<b>Josh Greco</b> , QB, Eastern Kentucky
Defense	<b>Clint Sellers</b> , LB, Eastern Illinois
Newcomer	<b>Bobby Washington</b> , RB, East. Kentucky

## PREDICTIONS

1. Eastern Kentucky
2. Eastern Illinois
3. Jacksonville State
4. Tennessee-Martin

## Expect a real dogfight between two Eastern (Kentucky and Illinois) teams

By MICHAEL GRANT

The (Louisville) Courier-Journal

The quest for the Ohio Valley championship could come down to a two-team race. Eastern Kentucky and Eastern Illinois both look like they will be ahead of the pack. The Colonels return 18 starters (including six all-league players) and have a powerful offense and favorable conference schedule, including a home game against Eastern Illinois. The Panthers are the OVC's reigning champion and have 16 starters back, a tough defense and what appears to be a manageable schedule.

In 2007, Austin Peay State will return to the OVC as a football-playing member. This year the Governors will transition from a non-scholarship program to scholarship football and play as a I-AA Independent. How the OVC's newest team will affect league scheduling in the future is still unknown.

After spending three years closing the gap between itself and the I-AA elite, **Eastern Kentucky** (7-4 overall, 7-1 OVC) seems poised to take the next step. Last year, the Colonels enjoyed their best season under Coach Danny Hope. This year, the program will aim for its first Ohio Valley championship and I-AA playoff appearance in nine years.

Everything starts with quarterback Josh Greco, who made significant strides as a sophomore after a shaky freshman season. The 2005 OVC Offensive Player of the Year established school single-season passing records for completions (222), attempts (387), yards (2,861) and touchdowns (25). He also piloted the league's highest-scoring offense (31.5 points per game).

Greco loses All-OVC wide receiver Andre Ralston, but will have All America tight end Patrick Bugg (40 catches, 608 yards, 10 TDs in

2005) back. The Colonels also could have the OVC's best tailback tandem with junior Mark Dunn (939 yards, 14 TDs) and North Carolina State transfer Bobby Washington.

**Eastern Illinois** (9-3, 8-0) returned to the top of the OVC last season, winning its first outright league championship since 2001. Bob Spoo proved that he could still work magic earning OVC Coach-of-the-Year honors for the second time in the last five years.

The Panthers should again be tough to beat, with nine starters returning on defense and seven on offense. Quarterback Mike Donato (9 TDs, 9 interceptions in 2005) is back, but not guaranteed to start.

The defensive line took the hardest hit with the loss of three starters, but the rest of the unit is intact. Eastern Illinois allowed the league's fewest points (19.2 per game) and had the best run defense (121.5 yards per game) last year. The Panthers will be led by the reigning OVC Defensive Player of the Year, Clint Sellers, who made 121 tackles and five interceptions from his linebacker position last season.

**Jacksonville State** (6-5, 6-2) has had a stranglehold on

5. Samford
6. Tennessee Tech
7. Southeast Missouri
8. Tennessee State
9. Murray State

## GAME TO WATCH: 10/14/06: Eastern Illinois @ Eastern Kentucky

The Colonels will be looking for revenge after suffering a 53-22 loss at Eastern Illinois last year, their only defeat in league play. It should also be a nice matchup of Eastern Kentucky's offense against the Eastern Illinois defense.

the conference since entering the league in 2003, as the Gamecocks are 20-4 in OVC play. The Ohio Valley's top rushing attack (215.3 ypc) last year should continue to roll. Clay Green (1,352, 11 TDs), the league's second-leading rusher, is back for his senior year.

However, Coach Jack Crowe believes the Gamecocks need to get the ball down the field more often. The team was last in the OVC for passing yards (145.1 per game), TD passes (8), attempts (233) and completions (119) and second worst in completion percentage (51.1). The most experienced returning quarterback is junior Matt Hardin, who threw just 27 passes in 2005.

So where does **Tennessee-Martin** (6-5, 4-4) go from here? The Skyhawks recorded just their second winning season since 1993. They also tied a school record for the most victories. But after Matt Griffin orchestrated that remarkable turnaround, he bolted to take the Murray State head-coaching position.

Enter Jason Simpson. The former Chattanooga offensive coordinator coached a unit that finished first in the Southern Conference in red zone efficiency—scoring on 26 of 29 trips (89.7 percent)—and finished fourth in total offense (352.3 ypc). Simpson

intends to install a protest offense and hopes to take advantage of junior tailback Don Chapman, who rushed for a league-leading 1,396 yards and 16 TDs last season.

If you're looking for a surprise team, **Samford** (5-6, 4-4) might be it. The Bulldogs have nine starters back on both offense and defense. Statistically speaking, the team returns 100 percent of its passing and rushing yards and 81 percent of the scoring.

Jefferson Adcock might be the second-best quarterback in the league. As a sophomore, he passed

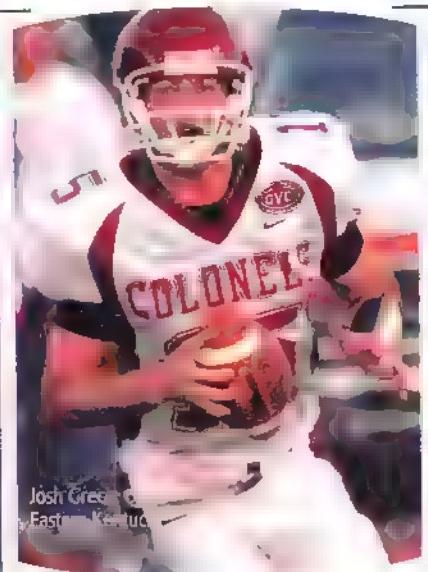
for 2,338 yards and 18 scores. Adcock has key weapons back in running back Justin Ray and wide receiver Jeff Moore.

Despite a difficult season, Coach Mike Hennigan received a three-year contract extension at **Tennessee Tech** (4-7, 3-5) through 2009. Lee Sweeney, a transfer from Louisville, will compete against Nate Xanders, John Conrad McCrary and Stephen Britton for the starting QB job. Britton and McCrary (who sat out the spring while recovering from surgery) each saw time last season. Whoever the signal-caller is will benefit by throwing to junior Larry Shipp (50 catches, 803 yards, 8 TDs in 2005).

**Southeast Missouri** (2-9, 2-6) has a new coach in former Purdue assistant Tony Samuel. He has previous head-coaching experience, having led New Mexico State from 1996-2004. Samuel replaces Tim Billings, who resigned at the end of last season. The Redhawks haven't won the league since joining in 1991, and they won't this year unless the defense improves on last year's average of 34.0 points allowed per game.

In James Webster's first season as coach last year, **Tennessee State** (2-9, 1-6) collapsed down the stretch. The team will enter this season with a five-game losing streak, and all but one of those defeats came by double digits. The Tigers have two key I-A transfers who should help in quarterback Antonio Heffner (South Carolina) and receiver Mike Mason (North Carolina).

After switching OVC schools, Griffin has a big job ahead of him trying to clean up the mess at **Murray State** (2-9, 0-7). The Racers, just three seasons removed from a share of the conference title, were historically bad in 2005. Last year marked the first time since 1966 that the team was winless in league play. The best building block might be senior tailback Chad Cook, who had 635 rushing yards last year.



**PREDICTIONS**

1. Colgate
2. Lehigh
3. Lafayette
4. Holy Cross
5. Bucknell
6. Fordham
7. Georgetown

## Storybook Leopards seek three-peat, but Colgate should have lots to smile about

By ED LAUBACH

Easton (Pa.) Express-Times

Lafayette College is the warm and fuzzy story of the Patriot League. The football program nearly was jettisoned after the 1998 season until the board of trustees saved it, voting down a proposal to switch athletics to Division III. The head football coach left a year later, as did some players, and recruiting was in shambles from all the negative publicity.

In came Coach Frank Tavani seven years ago, who asked the school for time and got it, rewarding Lafayette with a winning record in 2002, then back-to-back league co-championships and appearances in the Division I-AA playoffs (2004-05). Now the Leopards are positioned for a three-peat, favored equally with Colgate and Lehigh.

"Climb Higher" is Lafayette's motto, and the Leopards must do so to win the title outright. They haven't been able to handle Colgate, losing 10 in a row to the Raiders.

The three main contenders all return experienced quarterbacks and running backs. Also, three new head coaches were hired during the off-season—Andy Coen at Lehigh, Tom Masella at Fordham and Kevin Kelly at Georgetown.

**Colgate** Coach Dick Biddle has been around the league long enough to know that a veteran quarterback means everything. Quarterback Mike Saraceno, a first-team all-league pick, took Biddle and the Raiders to a share of the league championship and into the I-AA playoffs. Throw in league and ECAC Rookie-of-the-Year tailback Jordan Scott (1,364 yards, 10 TDs), who started the final nine games as a freshman, and it seems only more good things are to come. The Raiders may need all the offense they can muster while the coaching staff assembles a new defensive front seven.

But the defense isn't completely devoid of experience.

All-league picks Cody Williams and Geoff Bean return to the secondary. Bean is one of the country's premier punt and kick returners. And Biddle won't hesitate to play freshmen to shore up the defense.

Two league teams made the I-AA playoffs, and **Lehigh** wasn't one of them, which didn't sit well with the Mountain Hawks' loyal following. It didn't help that Lehigh also lost to bitter rival Lafayette for the second year in a row and third time in four seasons. When Coach Pete Lembo left for Elon, Lehigh didn't go far for his replacement, bringing back Andy Coen from the staff at Penn. He had been the Mountain Hawks' offensive coordinator from 1994-99.

Coen expects to have Lehigh contending for the title with a slightly different approach—a more balanced offense. The Mountain Hawks will run the ball more behind an offensive line that features center John Reese and Kent State transfer Josh Pastore. They'll block for returning scatback Marques Thompson. Lehigh came up with a real find at QB last season when an injury to its starter brought multidimensional Sedale Threatt (son of the former NBA guard) off the bench and into a starring role.

Lehigh received good news during spring practice when defensive tackle Royce Morgan decided to take a medical-hardship fifth season. Cornerback Brannan Thomas and strong safety Julian Austin also return.

**Lafayette** Coach Frank Tavani says he has the offensive weapons to move the ball around. They begin with QB Brad Maurer and extend to running back Jonathan Hurt, veteran receivers Joe Ort, Archie Fisher and Shaun Adair, and an offensive line that features Mike Saint Germain.

The Leopards were downright dominant on defense last year, ranking first in yards allowed per game (296.9) and points allowed

5. Bucknell
6. Fordham
7. Georgetown

**TOP PLAYERS**

- |          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| Offense  | Jordan Scott, RB, Colgate  |
| Defense  | Marcus Taylor, LB, Fordham |
| Newcomer | Josh Pastore, RB, Lehigh   |

**GAME TO WATCH:** 11/04/06: Colgate @ Lehigh

This game could decide the Patriot League championship, as the winner has gone on to win or share the title since 1997

(17 per game). Returning are defensive end Marvin Snipes and safeties Torian Johnson and Trey Martell. The linebacking corps took a major hit and Justin Stovall, the backup at all three positions last fall, will start in the middle.

If Coach Tom Gilmore of **Holy Cross** has his way, the Crusaders will turn the league's Big Three into the Big Four. They rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Lehigh on the road, lost to Colgate late in the game and fell by 20 points to champion Lafayette.

Gilmore expects to get plenty of mileage from his special teams, particularly cornerback Casey Gough, who returns punts and kickoffs. He averaged 33.9 yards per kickoff return last year.

The defense lost coordinator David Kotulski to Lehigh, but has eight returning starters, including Gough, linebackers Dan Adams and Chris Nielsen and end John Marcus Pinard. The Crusaders led the league in turnover margin.

On offense, the Crusaders have only three starters back. Backup QB Brian McSharry's time has arrived after two years of watching. Terrance Gass and Mike Kielt are the new running backs, while Thomas Harrison is the main receiving option.

Criticize Coach Tim Landis if you will for putting quarterbacks at risk in his offense at **Bucknell**, but he stays true to his belief that the QBs are no more susceptible to injury than any other position. And the Bison ranks were decimated on both sides of the ball, allowing younger players to get on the field. The result was a 1-10 season and winless in league games.

The upside to that is obvious—nine starters returning on offense and seven on defense. The Bison, however, remain young. Starter Terrance Wilson went down with a broken jaw in Week One and never returned, leaving the position to senior Dante Ross, a cornerback who made the switch to QB. Wilson is back, but Andrew Lair, a transfer

from Navy, enters the picture. Center Joel Hoffer and left guard Stefan Niemczyk are three-year starters on the line and both fullbacks, Josh DeStefano and Kevin Mullen, return.

Linebackers Dorian Petersen and Ryan Slater, cornerback David Frisby and free safety Stephen Collage are the defensive players to watch.

Most would think **Fordham** has a long way to go with its third head coach in four years, Tom Masella, especially after finishing 2-9 overall and sixth in the conference last season. However, Masella is confident he knows what it takes to return to the top, having been part of championship seasons as head coach at Central Connecticut State.

These Rams begin with tailback James Prydatko and linebacker Marcus Taylor. Quarterback Derric Daniels had a solid sophomore season, but his production dropped off last year. Masella feels good about his offensive line with Mike Nardone, Ricky Bencivenni and Mike Breznicky, but they allowed a league-high 43 sacks last year.

Nose tackle Eduardo Boza and defensive tackle Jay Edwards return, and Taylor and Josh Jenrette lead the linebackers.

The new coach at **Georgetown**, Kevin Kelly, sees himself as part of a football transformation that began a year ago with the hiring of Athletic Director Bernard Muir, who worked in athletics administration at Notre Dame and brought a Division I mentality to the Georgetown campus. Kelly, the special teams coordinator and linebackers coach for four years with Navy, will have a distinct Midshipmen-like feel on both sides of the ball.

The offense is led by quarterback Nick Cangelosi. The three top wide receivers are back in Kyle Van Fleet, Sidney Baker and Kenny Mitchell. They combined for 42 catches last season.

**TOP PLAYERS**

Offense	Josh Johnson, QB, San Diego
Defense	Casey Klaus, DB, Dayton
Newcomer	John Porn, DE, Dayton

**PREDICTIONS**

1. San Diego
2. Dayton
3. Drake
4. Morehead State

5. Jacksonville
6. Davidson
7. Valparaiso
8. Butler



## Changes abound in smaller, one-division Pioneer, but San Diego holds on to its firepower at the top

By MATT MCKENZIE  
Street & Smith's Staff Writer

This season marks a whole new ballgame for the Pioneer Football League. With Austin Peay State leaving to become a I-AA independent this year before joining the Ohio Valley Conference in 2007, the PFL currently stands at an even eight teams. No longer will the league be broken into two divisions. And for the first time since 2001, the teams will play each other in a round-robin format.

Also announced this offseason is the creation of the Gridiron Classic, which will pit the champion of the Pioneer against the winner of the Northeast Conference in an exempted postseason game. The NEC champion will play host to this year's game (Nov. 18), with the PFL champion doing the honors in 2007.

One thing that shouldn't change this season is the continued dominance of San Diego, which captured its first Pioneer title last season by defeating Morehead State 47-40. The Toreros, winners of 13 straight games at home, are coming off the school's best season ever (11-1) and Coach Jim Harbaugh says he is out to top that mark this year.

"I have high expectations, big goals," Harbaugh says. "We have a beefed-up schedule, though last year's schedule was tough. I'm excited about taking the program to bigger levels."

Standing in the way of a repeat for San Diego are the two usual suspects in the PFL—Drake and Dayton. One of the two teams has won the league title 12 of the last 14 years.

With junior quarterback Josh Johnson back to lead the way, San Diego appears primed to again challenge for the Pioneer title. Johnson, the 2005 PFL North Offensive Player of the Year, led the league with 3,256 passing yards and 31 touchdowns. No other Pioneer QB had more than 2,100 yards or 20 TDs.

"I have the best quarterback in college football, in all levels of college football," Harbaugh says.

The Toreros' high-powered offense, which posted a league-leading 42.6 points a game last year, will miss wideouts Adam Hannula and Nick Garton, who ranked first and third, respectively, in PFL receiving yards. But sophomore J.T. Rogan is back after rushing for 944 yards and eight touchdowns. Junior lineman Erik Bakhtiari (12.5 tackles for loss) and senior linebacker Kyson Hawkins (64 tackles) lead the returning defensive starters.

**Dayton** enjoyed a 9-1 record last season, giving the program 29 straight winning seasons. But the one loss was costly, as San Diego beat the Flyers 48-24 to win the PFL North title and advance to the league's championship game. Dayton's defense was tops in the Pioneer (14.1 ppg), while the Flyers' offense (40.3) ranked second behind the Toreros.

Although the Flyers lose John Hoppe, the 2005 PFL North Defensive Player of the Year, the team could have a repeat winner in senior defensive back Casey Klaus. He led the league with six interceptions last year, returning one for a touchdown. Quarterback Kevin Hoyng returns for his senior campaign after leading the team in both passing (1,989 yards, 14 TDs) and rushing (558, 7) last season.

The two-headed monster of Drake is now minus one, with quarterback Connor Jostes (38 TDs the last two seasons) lost to graduation. However, two-time Mid-Major All-American Scott Phayavong returns at running back, and looks to top last year's total of 1,550 yards, which ranked second in I-AA. Someone will have to emerge at QB to keep opposing defenses honest against the run, and it looks like a two-way battle between redshirt sophomores Cole Ingle and Derek Rutherford.



### GAME TO WATCH: 11/11/06: Dayton @ San Diego

This game in the last week of the season could decide the Pioneer title. It pits last year's best PFL offense (San Diego, 42.6 points per game) against the best defense (Dayton, 14.1 points allowed per game). The Toreros doubled up the Flyers last year, 48-24.



the school's all-time leader in tackles.

Even though Tripp Merritt's first season as coach of **Davidson** saw some growing pains, the Wildcats were able to double 2004's win total of two. Quarterback Ryan Alexander replaced Beaux Jones as the starter in the first game and never looked back, finishing second in the Pioneer with 199.1 passing yards a game. Merritt would like Alexander to cut down on his TD/INT ratio, which was 15/12 last season. The Wildcats could also use some help on the ground, as they scored just seven rushing TDs in 2005. Linebacker Alex Arunsmier, the 2005 PFL South Defensive Player of the Year, will be missed, but the Wildcats return defensive linemen Will Funderburg and Kyle Kinsell, both all-league picks.

**Valparaiso** saw its slide continue in 2005, as the team has now endured four losing seasons in the last five years. The Crusaders won their first game in 2003, then lost seven of the next eight, sealing a disappointing season. A bright spot was junior running back Jeff Horton, who rushed for a career-high 1,358 yards and a league-leading 10 TDs. Horton will be back, but the Crusaders need a better season from QB Ryan Doerfler, who threw nine touchdowns and a PFL-high 14 interceptions last year.

With only three wins since 2003, **Butler** hit rock bottom last year as just one of two I-AA teams to finish without a victory (0-11). The Bulldogs were last in the PFL in nearly every category, including points allowed (42.5 a game), rushing offense (92.0) and total defense (480.4). Sophomore QB T.J. Brown averaged just 55.9 yards passing a game, while junior linebacker Mike Marzotto ranked first in the league with 109 tackles.



## Same old story in SoCon: tons of talent for Big Three

By MATT MCKENZIE  
Street & Smith's Staff Writer

The Southern Conference produced its third national champion in the last seven years last December, thanks to Appalachian State's 21-16 victory over Northern Iowa in the I-AA Championship Game at Chattanooga, Tenn. It was the first title for the Mountaineers and Coach Jerry Moore, who will be entering his 18th season at ASU.

En route to the title, ASU had to overcome an injury to its star quarterback and beat longtime conference rival Furman in the semifinals. But playing a regular-season schedule in the ultra-competitive Southern helped the Mountaineers prepare for the postseason.

"If you look at it from top to bottom, it's probably the strongest [I-AA conference]," Western Carolina Coach Kent Briggs says.

In recent years, the Southern has been represented in the postseason by a combination of the conference's Big Three—Appalachian State, Georgia Southern and Furman. Those teams have made the playoffs together in five of the past seven seasons.

But the level of play is beginning to catch up with the trio, as evidenced by the Catamounts' 41-21 upset of then-No. 2 Furman and Wofford's 21-17 win over Georgia Southern last season.

"I think the gap is closing," Briggs says. "We had a big win over Furman last year, so it's evident we're making progress. You want all the schools to be competitive. For us, it was a big jump. We're knocking at the door and it's time to open it."

Big holes need to be filled among the Big Three, with Appalachian State and Furman playing new quarterbacks and Georgia Southern Coach Brian VanGorder taking over for Mike Sewak, who was fired during the offseason.

But with All-America defensive end Marques Murrell leading the way, look for Appalachian State to repeat as Southern champions and make

### PREDICTIONS

1. Appalachian State
2. Furman
3. Georgia Southern
4. Western Carolina

5. Chattanooga
6. Wofford
7. Eton
8. The Citadel

### TOP PLAYERS

- |                 |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Offense</b>  | Kevin Richardson, RB, Appalachian St. |
| <b>Defense</b>  | Marques Murrell, DE, Appalachian St.  |
| <b>Newcomer</b> | Chris Griffin, QB, Georgia Southern   |

### GAME TO WATCH: 10/28/06: Furman @ Appalachian State

■ ■ ■ One of I-AA's best rivalries was heightened when the Mountaineers beat Furman in the national semifinals last year. Heading into this season, ASU has won a school-record 18 straight games at home.

The Paladins have six of their starting front seven back on defense. Junior cornerback Austin Holmes, who led the league with 11 passes broken up and added four INTs, is among the top returnees.

Brian VanGorder arrives as the new coach at **Georgia Southern**, and with him comes an entirely new plan. Gone is the triple-option attack that Eagles fans have been accustomed to. In its place is a high-powered multiple set, designed to put the ball in the air early and often. Junior Jayson Foster, who was the team's quarterback last year and led the league in rushing TDs (21), has been moved to wide receiver. Redshirt freshman Chris Griffin beat out transfer Zach Stanford in the spring for the starting QB job.

The Eagles lose three-time all-conference running back Jermaine Austin, who led the Southern last season with 1,546 rushing yards. Taking his place will likely be either Lyndon Jefferson or Marquice Maynard.

VanGorder is also implementing a new 4-3 scheme on defense. The Eagles were second to last in the conference for total defense last year, giving up 388.8 yards a game.

If you're looking for a I-AA sleeper team this season, **Western Carolina** may be the answer. The Catamounts bring back most of their offensive skill players, including quarterback Justin Clark (1,253 passing yards), running back Darius Fudge and wideouts J.C. Brown and Michael Hines. Brown and Hines ranked fourth and fifth, respectively, in the Southern for receiving yards a game in 2005.

#### WEEKEND GUIDE

Western's defense gave up a league-low 24 TDs last year. Senior Mitchell Dukes topped all Southern defensive backs in sacks (6.5), while defensive lineman Felipe Foster was an all-league pick.

**Chattanooga** was last in the league for points allowed per game (30.8) last season. That was down from 2004's bloated total of 48.1, so things are heading in the right direction.

On offense, the Mocs return All-SoCon picks in running back Eldra Buckley (1,233 yards, 11 TDs), wide receiver Emanuel Hassell (548 yards) and kicker Esteban Lopez. Junior quarterback Antonio Miller threw a league-high 14 interceptions last year, but ranked fourth in SoCon total offense.

**Wofford** was in the SoCon hunt for most of the 2005 season until the Terriers lost two of their final three games. Quarterback Josh Collier is back for his second season as a starter, but needs improvement, as the junior averaged just 56.1 passing yards a game. Sophomore Dane Romero was recruited as a QB but will move to running back to replace the graduated Gabriel Jackson.

**Elon** failed to win a conference game (0-7) for the first time since joining the Southern three years ago. Part of the reason was the Phoenix's league-low average of just 15.8 points per game. In the offseason, Paul Hamilton resigned as coach and was replaced by Pete Lembo who was head coach at Lehigh.

Hamilton's son, Kye, was the starting QB last year, but left the team after his father's dismissal. Redshirt sophomore Wes Pope, who will convert back to quarterback after switching to tight end last year, looks to have the inside track after spring ball. All-America linebacker Chad Nkang has led the league in tackles the last two seasons, including a career-high 152 last year.

In his first year as coach, Kevin Higgins saw **The Citadel** end its season on a good note, as the Bulldogs won their final two games. However, the team still hasn't enjoyed a winning record since 1992, and has finished second to last in the SoCon for both scoring offense (17.6 ppg) and defense (28.7). Junior QB Duran Lawson, who missed the Bulldogs' last six games after injuring his knee, sat out the spring while still recovering from surgery. The Citadel returns two weapons in tailback Nur Goodrum (800 rushing yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Ta'Mar Jernigan.



## TOP PLAYERS

Offense	Joseph Tobias, RB, Nicholls State
Defense	Tory Collins, DT, Northwestern State
Newcomer	Jay Lucas, RB, Southeastern Louisiana

## PREDICTIONS

1. Nicholls State
2. Texas State
3. McNeese State
4. Northwestern State

5. Sam Houston State
6. Stephen F Austin
7. Southeastern Louisiana

## Once a league doormat, Nicholls State now looks to stay on top in the SLC

By BILL SMITH  
Street & Smith's Correspondent

Who knew the most important factor on the sports page could be the weather forecast?

While the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the I-A schools were well-documented, no conference in America suffered a greater blow than the I-AA Southland. Almost half the football membership took direct hits on their campuses, and the entire league was touched by the flow of evacuees. Only two of the seven member schools played a complete 11-game schedule. McNeese State took the worst hit, playing only nine after Rita plowed over the Lake Charles, La., area.

By season's end, two schools on opposite ends of the disaster came away the co-champions. After years of searching for their identity, they've finally awakened the echoes of the small-college football's glory days in San Marcos, Texas. Harkening to when the Bobcats dominated Division II, Texas State came within a possession of reaching the I-AA championship game last season. Nicholls State rallied after the hurricanes and reopened its campus to tie TSU for the title, taking the automatic bid by virtue of handing the Bobcats their only I-AA regular-season loss.

A large percentage of top players were seniors last season, placing a premium on recruiting for the 2006 campaign. Texas State did the most work in the transfer market, but no one matches Southeastern Louisiana for sheer volume—with a whopping 32 newcomers for the upcoming year. If the season comes down to a rematch of last year, the advantage goes to TSU as the host of Nicholls State. With only six league games and a very even talent base across the conference, small differences could also tip the title to a team like McNeese.

In the end, the team that finds a quarterback first may win it all. Bucking the trend of pass-happy I-AA, almost all the SLC teams are ground-heavy this fall.

All the national headlines went to nearby institutions, but in the quiet of the bayous, Nicholls State fulfilled its own hurricane destiny. Perhaps it was the old-school nature of the Colonels—a run-oriented team built around local prep talent—that made them somewhat unexciting as Coach Jay Thomas put them in the I-AA playoffs for the first time since 1996.

The Colonels have the best rushing combo in the league with SLC Newcomer-of-the-Year Joseph Tobias (109 carries, 718 yards, 7 TDs) and junior Broderick Cole (156, 717, 13).

For all the returning talent at running back, Thomas must replace the heart of the Colonels' option attack, rushing quarterback Yale Vannoy, to keep the NSU ground game rolling. No one else threw a pass last year, and four quarterbacks took a turn in the spring with no resolution heading into the fall.

As a result, expect the Colonels to rely heavily on their seven returning starters on defense. The other obstacle for Nicholls is that no one will overlook the former doormat as the SLC co-champion tries to repeat.

There are three items on Coach David Bailiff's task list at **Texas State**. Replacing Barrick Nealey is job one, and backup QB Chase Wasson brings experience from the past two seasons, plus a strong spring performance to the table. If Wasson falters, a stable of potential starters (Purdue transfer David Ramirez and red-shirt freshman Bradley George) are waiting in the wings.

The second task for Bailiff is integrating the Bobcats' I-A transfers—former South Florida kicker Kyle Bronson, Oklahoma State running back Greg Gold, Utah State wide receiver Cameron Luke and Arkansas wideout Rick Calbert—into the mix.

If that comes together and the Bobcats can offset the loss of 27 seniors and seven offensive starters, they will be among the favorites for the Southland trophy.

## GAME TO WATCH: 11/04/06: Nicholls State @ Texas State

The rematch of an overtime thriller that decided the SLC title last year may not crown the 2006 champion, but it is guaranteed to affect the playoff fate of the two new power teams of the league.

But for the final step to the title game, TSU must plug the gaping holes in the trenches. The offensive line lacks depth, while the defense lost the league's Defensive Player of the Year and three other first-team players in the front seven. Arizona State transfer Mark Washington and sophomore Mike Rutledge are the keys to fixing the defensive front, while starting senior cornerback Walter Musgrave and safety Gary Shepard provide experience in the secondary.

**McNeese State** continues to rebuild to the level it's known for—having more Division I-AA playoff appearances than any other two SLC members combined. Coach Tommy Tate's team was young last season, lacking offensive punch and porous on defense. Redshirt freshman Derrick Fourroux emerged in the spring as a contender with sophomore Mark Pontenot (56-of-113, 791 yards, 5 TDs) for the starting spot at quarterback.

The top offensive threat is SLC Freshman-of-the-Year placekicker Blake Bercegeay, whose foot produced over a fourth of the anemic Cowboys' points last season.

The Cowboys return more on defense than offense, led by All-SLC second-team selections in linebacker Trey Bennett, cornerback Jonathan Walker and safety Jamelle Juneau.

This season at **Northwestern State** is brought to you by the letter "D." The Demons return more in the way of key defensive players than any other SLC team, and the ability to stop opponents may be the key to a dark-horse run at the title for Coach Scott Stoker. Disappointment was the emotion of every game day last season, as the highly touted offense did not produce.

The "Purple Swarm" defense can take the pressure off the retooling offense, though. Tory Collins earned All America honors last season at defensive tackle, and first-team all-conference choice Ed Queen and Russ

Washington also return. Ricky Joe Meeks (31-of-51, 302 yards 1 TD) is set to take over at quarterback—a fact in and of itself that gives NSU a nod over the rest of the league—but his effectiveness rides on the protection given by a young offensive line. Senior Derrick Doyle is poised to break Northwestern's career receiving records this fall, and headlines a corps of able receivers for Meeks.

**Sam Houston State** has the one thing the rest of the SLC wants: a glut of quarterback talent. Last year's part-time starters, senior Wade Pate (66-of-123, 883 yards, 6 TDs) and Texas Tech transfer Phillip Daugherty (106-of-183, 1,196 8) return, along with former Oklahoma player Noah Allen. Pate established himself at the top of the depth chart.

The emergence of running back Andrew Audelin after a transition year from Dodge City (Kan.) Community College rounds out an improved offense.

It's hard to vault the Bearcats from next-to-last place into contender status, but Coach Todd Whitten has a team with the potential to pull it off.

Translating non-conference success into Southland wins was almost impossible last season for **Stephen F. Austin**. While 5-6 overall, the Lumberjacks had just one SLC victory thanks to poor performances on defense. Coach Robert McFarland hopes to improve the league's worst defense (allowing 34.5 ppg) by adding more presence up front. A strong secondary includes All-America safety Keldrick Holman and senior Freddie Parish.

For a year filled with turmoil on and off the field at **Southeastern Louisiana**, it was a real achievement that the Lions posted any conference wins (2) in their inaugural Southland campaign. With 32 newcomers this season, second-year Coach Dennis Roland welcomes a new backfield of transfers who dominated in the spring—former Texas A&M tailback Jay Lucas and ex Ole Miss fullback Kendrick Perry.



## PREDICTIONS

### EAST

1. Alabama A&M
2. Mississippi Valley State
3. Alcorn State
4. Alabama State
5. Jackson State

### WEST

1. Grambling State
2. Southern
3. Prairie View A&M
4. Arkansas-Pine Bluff
5. Texas Southern

## TOP PLAYERS

### Offense

Aries Nelson, QB, Mississippi Valley St.

### Defense

Johnny Baldwin, LB, Alabama A&M

### Newcomer

Alex Engram, QB, Alabama State

## Despite loss of graduated star Eugene, Grambling still has look of a winner

By LUT WILLIAMS  
Black College Sports Page

It's a shame that 2005 Southwestern Athletic Conference champion Grambling State didn't get a chance to show its wares in the I-AA playoffs. The high-scoring Tigers (44.1 points per game) certainly made a shambles of the race in their own conference. Behind record-setting senior quarterback Bruce Eugene, the Tigers went undefeated in league play en route to taking the West Division title and beating the East Division's best team, Alabama A&M, 89-6 over two games, including a 45-6 thrashing in the seventh SWAC Championship Game in Birmingham.

But as long as games like the December title contest and the Bayou Classic are played after the I-AA playoffs begin, you won't be seeing any SWAC teams in the postseason. The Classic, which annually draws nearly 70,000 fans to the New Orleans Superdome on Thanksgiving weekend, switched to Houston's Reliant Stadium last season because of damage to the dome from Hurricane Katrina, and still drew more than 50,000 fans. That game, televised nationally by NBC, was a showcase for Eugene, who tied the single-season mark for touchdown passes (56) and finished second in career passing yards (13,492) and as the career I-AA leader in TD passes (140).

Grambling has enough left-over talent to again battle with Southern for the West Division crown, but the East may have a new representative. Defending champ A&M is the favorite, but look for strong challenges from Mississippi Valley State and Alcorn State.

### EAST DIVISION

There was evidence last season that Alabama A&M (9-3 overall, 7-2 SWAC in 2005), the league's perennial defensive leader, was making progress on the offensive end. Running back Nic Luke ran for 819 yards

and eight TDs, while QB Kelcy Luke finished fifth in passing yards per game (167.7) and total offense (212.3 yards per game). They'll both return this year along with promising transfer Brunel Flowers.

The defense was once again the best in the league, surrendering only 300.3 yards and 18.7 points per game, but three starters on the line have graduated. All-SWAC linebacker Johnny Baldwin is now the ringleader on defense.

The next step in the evolution of fifth-year Coach Willie Totten and senior QB Aries Nelson at Mississippi Valley State (6-5, 5-4) could result in a division title, as the Delta Devils return 10 starters on both sides.

As a junior, Nelson completed 57.1 percent of his passes for 2,942 yards and 17 TDs. With first-team All-SWAC receiver Tyrone Timmons (62 receptions, 1,059 yards, 8 TDs) and Shang Moore back along with the team's top two rushers (Walter Burnette and John Haggard), Nelson should have plenty of weapons at his disposal. Linebacker Tyler Knight earned conference Defensive-Player-of-the-Year honors as a junior.

Alcorn State (6-5, 5-4) led the SWAC in rushing in 2005, thanks to a consistent offensive line that opened holes for league rushing leader Jeremy McCoy (1,130 yards, 6.1 yards per carry, 5 TDs), and limited pressure on freshman QB Tony Hobson (1,506 passing yards, 10 TDs). Coach Johnny Thomas has to replace the right side of that line to ensure continued production from those playmakers. First-team all-conference wideout Charlie Spiller (who also returned two kickoffs for touchdowns), first-team All-SWAC tight end Tabari Lott and dangerous wide receiver Nate Hughes, who was out with a shoulder injury after last year's season opener, are equally capable of making plays. The

**GAME TO WATCH:** 09/09/06: Grambling State @ Alabama A&M  
Grambling smashed Alabama A&M twice last year, once in the SWAC title game. A&M gets an early chance to show if they've closed the gap.

defense returns the league's sack leader in end Martin Jackson.

A four-game losing streak at the end of last season prevented Alabama State (6-5, 6-3) from making its third straight trip to the SWAC title game and brought an end to an era of unmatched brilliance for the Hornets. Coach Charles Coe lost a three-year starter at QB (Tavaris Jackson) and rushers who accounted for 5,577 career yards and 56 TDs (Keldrick Williams and Robert Randolph). The road back may begin with Western Michigan transfer QB Alex Engram.

An outstanding 90-26 record in 10 years at Tuskegee had Jackson State (2-9, 2-7) fans hoping new Coach Rick Comegy could hit the ground running and quickly end the Tigers' three-year slide into mediocrity. Comegy obliged by signing over 50 recruits—a mixture of junior-college transfers, Division I-A transfers and high school players—many of whom will get a chance to play right away. The most hyped of the signees are two-time juco All-America QB Jimmy Oliver and former Ole Miss tailback Jamal Pittman.

### WEST DIVISION

Seven All-SWAC seniors led the way for Grambling State (11-1, 9-0) to win its fourth SWAC title since 2000. A deep pool of talented players will now get a chance to extend that domination. Brandon Landers (2,283 yards, 18 TDs in 2004) saw time his freshman year at QB while Bruce Eugene was nursing a knee injury, but did not play last season. He'll be back to lead an offense that includes wide receivers Clyde Edwards (54 receptions, 1,015 yards, 10 TDs) and Tim Abney.

Ruben Mayes is the holdover at fullback and will likely be joined by running back Landry Carter (6.3 yards per carry). Second-team All-SWAC tackle Andre' Bennett (6-6, 350) leads a number of similar-sized behemoths on the offensive line.

Defensive backs Zaire Wilborn, DeMichael Dizer and Greg Fassitt are the strength of the defense.

The continuing development of junior quarterback J.C. Lewis and a young offensive line appear to be the keys to Southern (4-5) regaining its swagger after suffering the first losing season in Coach Pete Richardson's 13-year tenure. Lewis had 19 TD passes and only seven interceptions last year while completing a league-best 63.5 percent of his passes for 2,496 yards. The Jaguars are thin in the D-line and secondary.

Prairie View A&M (5-6, 3-6) passed Texas Southern in the West Division standings in 2004 and tied Arkansas-Pine Bluff for third in '05. Coach Henry Frazier has 10 returning starters on both offense and defense. Hakeem Muhammad, a defensive back who was SWAC Newcomer of the Year in 2005, and junior running back Arnell Fontenot (849 yards) are the standouts. Frazier will choose between Mark Spivey and Chris Gibson to replace two-year starter Michael Hill at QB and must improve on the team's league-worst 100.6 passing yards per game.

Arkansas-Pine Bluff (3-8, 3-6) took a step back in Coach Mo Forte's second season. A year after coming within one win of a spot in the title game, the Golden Lions got off to an 0-4 start and never factored into the division race. SWAC Freshman-of-the-Year Mickey Dean (712 yards, 11 TDs) is a bright spot at running back.

Coach Steve Wilson made progress in his second season at Texas Southern (1-10, 1-8), though it was not reflected in the team's record. The Tigers lost two games by three points, two others by single digits and they got their only win over East Division champ Alabama A&M.

Wilson got a great year out of his son, running back Brent Wilson, who was one of only two SWAC rushers to top 1,000 yards in 2005.

## Tigers welcome company in I-AA indy ranks

By MATT MCKENZIE  
Street & Smith's Staff Writer

Last year, Savannah State was the lone independent in I-AA football. But three new teams join the Tigers in that category this season, although possibly only briefly.

Both Austin Peay State (Ohio Valley) and Central Arkansas (Southland) are in a transition of moving to new conferences. This year, those programs will be classified as I-AA independents, but will play a schedule featuring games with many of their future conference foes.

Next season, Austin Peay and Central Arkansas will be full-fledged members of their leagues. Winston-Salem State has applied to the MEAC for membership, and was expected to be welcomed as the league's 10th member during the conference's annual meeting in May. Meanwhile, Savannah State continues to be without a conference, though the school has shown strong interest in joining the MEAC as well.

The I-AA independents will grow by at least two in 2007. Next year, Presbyterian will move up from Division II and eventually join the Big South, while Stony Brook is leaving the Northeast Conference.

The Governors of Austin Peay State leave the Pioneer Football League for a year of independence, and need to greatly improve on defense before entering OVC play in 2007.

APSU (2-9) gave up 37.5 points a game last season, ranking 110th among 116 Division I-AA teams. The Governors also allowed 233 rushing yards a contest and managed just six sacks all season. Part of the problem was the injury bug, which bit APSU hard. The Governors' leading tackler two years ago, linebacker Charlie Forte, suffered a torn meniscus, while 2005 preseason All-America defensive end Steven Young broke his right tibia. A staph infection also made its rounds among several members of the team.

Governors Coach Carroll McCray hopes a year of experience will help his young defensive unit. Defensive back Brandon Meggs led the team with four interceptions last year as a freshman, while fellow DB

Gary Askew and defensive end Patrick Horton saw significant playing time in their first season with APSU. Senior Josh Hackett, who had 11.5 tackles for loss and two sacks in 2005, anchors the linebacking unit.

On offense, things are a bit brighter, as the Governors return a key weapon in junior running back Chris Fletcher. An all-conference pick last season, Fletcher rushed for 970 yards and seven touchdowns. After being Jesse Kellogg's backup the last two years, junior Mark Cunningham is set to take over as the starting QB. However, Cunningham has little experience, throwing just 49 passes so far in his career.

Last season, Central Arkansas tied a school record for victories in a season (11) and was a quarterfinalist in the postseason. However, that was all in Division II and the Bears' inaugural season in Division I-AA will likely provide a different result.

For one, the Bears' schedule is loaded with tough I-AA opponents such as Georgia Southern, Illinois State and UC Davis. Those three programs should give UCA an unpleasant preview before the Bears officially move to the Southland in the 2007 season.

By moving up to I-AA, Central Arkansas shouldn't expect a repeat of last year's offensive performance, when it averaged 40.2 points a contest. The team's top two rushers (Kentrel Rogers and Willie Hopson, who combined for 32 TDs and almost 1,900 yards) are gone, leaving junior Ross Brown to carry the load. However, UCA returns quarterback Nathan Brown, who looked very impressive as a freshman, completing 69.2 percent of his passes for 2,410 yards and 25 TDs. Senior Aaron Fairuz is also back, after setting school records for receptions (76) and receiving yards (1,197) in a season, while adding 12 touchdowns.

On the other side of the ball, the Bears will rely heavily on senior defensive ends Jacob Ford and Jeremy Pittman. Ford led the team with 17 tackles for loss and 9.5 sacks, while

Pittman wasn't far behind with 10 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks. Linebackers Quentin Maxfield (106 tackles) and Kelvin Horne (16 tackles for loss) are solid components on a UCA defense that surrendered just 10 rushing touchdowns last year. But the Bears have to replace defensive back Cory Cangelosi, who had a team-high seven interceptions in 2005. No other player on the team had more than two picks.

It was another tough season for Savannah State. The Tigers, who were recently put on three years of probation by the NCAA for recruiting, practice and benefits violations, were one of only two I-AA teams without a win last year (0-11).

The offseason also saw Richard Basil announce his resignation as coach. Basil, who was a QB for the Tigers



in the late 1980s, won just two games in his two seasons with the team. He is replaced by Theo Lemon, who comes from longtime NAIA power Central State (Ohio).

Unfortunately, one of Lemon's first acts at SSU was canceling spring practice, since the delay in finding a coach didn't give the team enough time to get on the field prior to final exams (players were able to lift weights and go through conditioning drills). Clearly, that can't help the Tigers.

Sophomore QB Garret Williams, who will take over the reins after splitting time with Clyde Tullis last season, leads Savannah State's offense. Williams threw for 2,203 yards and 15 TDs in 2005, with 11 of those going to Tullis, who was also the team's top wideout.

The Tigers have a deep hole to fill at wide receiver, as Khalil Hasan graduated as well. Young players like Anthony Huntley and Shawn Williams will be relied upon, regardless of experience. Again carrying the load in the backfield is senior Chadrick Cone (862 yards, 6 TDs), who also ranked third on the team in receiving.

Defensively, the Tigers are sparse, losing five of their six leading tacklers. The news got worse when starting linebacker Rocky Lee withdrew from school in April. Savannah State will have to build around outside linebacker Trent Newton (team-high 100 tackles in 2005) and a secondary that loses just one starter.

Item No. 1 for Winston-Salem State this spring was to improve its passing game. As a Division II member in the CIAA last season, the Rams had just three total touchdowns in the air. Perhaps that's because running back Martin Hicks (the 2005 CIAA Player of the Year) was on the team at the time, but has since graduated.

Quarterback Monte Purvis must do better this season, but will be working with a young group of wideouts. Aside from tight end Stan Wright, the Rams' top returning receiver, Mike Scarborough, caught just four passes last season. Replacing Hicks won't be easy either, but junior running back Jerrick Bines (964 yards, nine TDs) has potential to be a star feature back. Senior kicker Matt Hind was a perfect eight-for-eight on field goals last season.

The Rams had 13 interceptions in 2005, including three by junior defensive back Nathaniel Biggs. He leads seven returning defensive starters in a group that also boasts linebacker Darrian Byrum (9 tackles for loss) and 6-4, 255-pound defensive lineman Michael Moore, who had a team-leading four sacks.

As a first-year I-AA independent, the Rams have to take games wherever they can find them, which means just four contests are at home and tough road dates at Coastal Carolina, Hampton and South Carolina State await.



## Lakers of football shooting for second straight title, but it won't be easy in an improving D2 landscape.

**D**ivision II football seems to only be getting better. Leagues are deeper now than ever, and even with expanded playoffs it seems as if more and more teams can state their case for the postseason.

But there are still lots of heavy-weights that rule the national scene each season. No team, however, has dominated in recent seasons quite like the Grand Valley State Lakers.

Grand Valley and Northwest Missouri State treated fans and a national TV audience to a thrilling D2 Championship Game last season at Braly Municipal Stadium in Florence, Ala. In the end, it was the Lakers who emerged with a third title in four years, topping the Bearcats 21-17.

The win wasn't unexpected, as the Lakers have turned Florence into their winter home. They raced through 2005 practically unchallenged before running into Coach Mel Tjeerdsma's road-weary Bearcats.

Just a week earlier on the same field, Northwest Missouri scored in the final minute to beat hometown favorite North Alabama. A similar drama unfolded in the title game, as Grand Valley's defense stopped receiver Raphael Robinson four yards short of a winning touchdown on the game's final play.

It was the first championship for Grand Valley Coach Chuck Martin, who took over the program following the team's 2003 title season. The win was a relief for Martin and proof that

the program had not slipped under his direction.

"When you have a coaching change, you always wonder if you can keep it going," Martin says.

Martin's first season as head coach ended with a 10-3 record, and the Lakers failed to reach the championship game for the first time in three years—another reason why Martin believes last year was so important.

"I think it proved that we have kept the program going at a high level," he says. "It enhances already a good situation here."

For Tjeerdsma, whose Bearcats were denied a third title, the loss overshadowed his team's performance.

"I was disappointed that we lost,

but I thought our kids played with great effort," he says. "When I was at the AFCA [American Coaches Football Association] Convention, I had several people tell me the championship game was one of the top three games of the year—on any level."

With a new season about to begin, both coaches are trying to find the right formula to ensure a return trip to the championship game in Florence. And Martin is aware that the Lakers will open the season as the team to beat.

We know that everyone will be picking us No. 1," he says. "We've been picked No. 1 every year since 2002. Our program has earned that by what it has accomplished. We're viewed by people in Division II as the team to beat."



# TOP 25

As usual, **Grand Valley State** (13-0 overall in 2005), which is 70-5 dating back midway through the 2000 season, is loaded as it goes after its fourth title in five years. Quarterback Cullen Finnerty enters his fourth season as the starter and could become the first player to pass for at least 10,000 yards and rush for 2,000 for his career in Division II history.

Senior Astin Martin leads the ground game after surpassing 1,300 yards in 2005, while receiver Eric Fowler is coming off a 57-catch season. Defensively, the Lakers boast the nation's top defensive linemen in Michael McFadden (19

on a national championship. The Eagles, who are moving to Division I-AA, broke a 25 year Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) title drought last season and took North Alabama to the final play before losing in the second round of the playoffs. Giving the Eagles a solid ground game is Greg Pruitt Jr., the son of former Oklahoma All-American and longtime Cleveland Browns running back Greg Pruitt. He rushed for 1,172 yards and 10 TDs in 2005.

**Saginaw Valley State** (11-2) is one of several Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) teams ready to step in if Grand Valley falters. Both of the Cardinals' losses last year were against

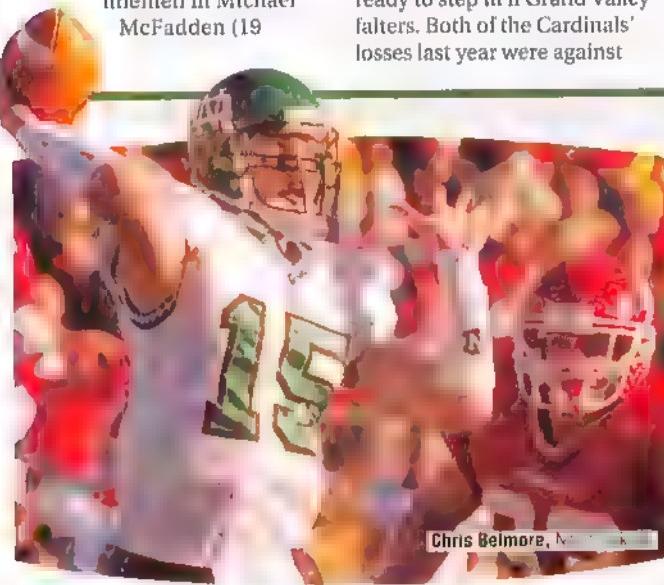
Gorillas could easily be in the mix for a national championship. Running back Germaine Race (1,846 yards, 33 TDs), who has 5,041 career yards, could surpass Emporia State's Brian Shay as Division II's all-time leading rusher.

**North Dakota** (10-3) is the team to beat in the North Central Conference, and with Chris Belmore and Reed Manke (who combined for 23 TD passes and 2,881 passing yards last season), the Fighting Sioux are in good shape at quarterback.

**North Alabama** (11-3) was 23 seconds away from returning to the championship game for the first time since 1995, but now has several holes to fill, including running back

## PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Grand Valley State
2. East Stroudsburg
3. North Carolina Central
4. Saginaw Valley State
5. Northwest Missouri State
6. Pittsburg State
7. North Dakota
8. North Alabama
9. Bloomsburg
10. Presbyterian
11. West Texas A&M
12. Shepherd
13. South Dakota
14. Nebraska-Omaha
15. Carson-Newman
16. Valdosta State
17. Ash
18. Washburn
19. Minnesota-Duluth
20. Nebraska-Kearney
21. Winona State
22. Concordia-St. Paul
23. C.W. Post
24. California (Pa.)
25. Southern Connecticut



Chris Belmore, N.D.



Germaine Race, Pittsburg State

sacks), who won the Gene Upshaw Award given to Division II's best lineman.

With Jimmy Terwilliger returning for his senior season, **East Stroudsburg** (11-3) is positioned to make another deep playoff run. Terwilliger, who won the Harlon Hill Trophy (given to D2's top player), threw 50 touchdown passes for the Warriors last year, and already owns NCAA records for total offense in a career (12,594 yards) and consecutive games with at least one touchdown pass (37). His favorite receiver, Evan Prall, returns after catching 86 passes last year for 1,766 yards and 23 touchdowns, all three of which are school records.

**North Carolina Central** (10-2) begins its final year in Division II with its sights set

the Lakers, and Saginaw Valley has won 10 games three of the past five seasons. While the Cardinals must replace two defensive linemen and All-America linebacker John DiGiorgio, they return QB Chris Dougherty and four starters on the offensive line.

**Northwest Missouri State** (11-4), part of the powerful Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association, will have to be at its best to make a return trip to the playoffs. Coach Mel Tjeerdsma has some holes to fill, especially at quarterback and wide receiver now that Josh Lamberson and Andre Rector have graduated. The Bearcats must also replace All-America defensive end Dave Tolleson.

**Pittsburg State** (10-4) should contend in the MIAA, and the

DeMarcus Blount, the Gulf South Conference's all-time leading scorer. Anthony Merritt, a Harlon Hill Trophy candidate who scored touchdowns four different ways last year (rushing, receiving, punt return, kickoff return), is UNA's top offensive weapon.

**Bloomsburg** (11-1) is coming off of one of its best regular seasons in school history. The Huskies raced through the season unbeaten and were ranked as high as No. 2 before losing to East Stroudsburg in the second round of the playoffs. Bloomsburg will again rely on Harlon Hill Trophy finalist Jamar Brittingham (2,260 yards, 34 TDs) to carry the offense at running back.

**Presbyterian** (10-2) is another school playing its final

season in Division II before moving to I-AA, and the Blue Hose hope to build on their 2005 success. With 17 starters back, including nine on defense, Presbyterian will try to maintain its hold on the South Atlantic Conference title.

The key offensive components return among 18 starters for high-powered **West Texas A&M** (10-2), which won its first Lone Star Conference title since 1986 last season and posted 10 wins for the first time since 1950. Harlon Hill Trophy finalist Dalton Bell will try to improve on a season in which he threw for 3,799 yards and 30 TDs.

**Shepherd** (11-1) will rely on running back Dervon Wallace, who rushed for 1,389 yards and 26 TDs last season despite not becoming a full-time starter.



Anthony Lazarus, #1

until the sixth game. On defense, the Rams are led by safety Dan Peters, who led Division II in interceptions last year with 12.

Running back Stefan Logan figures to get even more carries as NCC co-champ **South Dakota** (9-2) breaks in a new quarterback to replace Harlon Hill Trophy runner-up Wesley Beschorner. Logan should be up to the task, as he rushed for 1,751 yards and 11 TDs last season, including a school-record 98-yard scoring run.

Coach Pat Behrns keeps cranking out wins at **Nebraska-Omaha** (8-3), but must replace QB Brian Masek and Chris Dennev, the NCC's Most Valuable Receiver for 2005. Tight end Zac Herold (32 catches, 465 yards, 5 TDs) should again be a favorite target for the Mavericks.

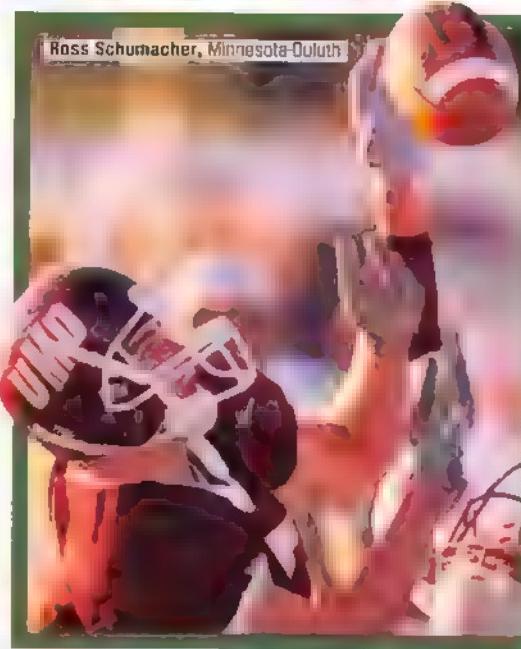
**Carson-Newman** (8-2) stumbled early and missed the playoffs despite winning its last four games. Coach Ken Sparks begins his 27th season with the Eagles, and has high hopes for sophomore quarterback Alex Rouse and new wide receiver James Banks, who transferred from Tennessee.

A year after winning the national championship, **Valdosta State** (9-3) could never find the same magic in 2005. Coach Chris Hatcher must replace the defensive line and both safety positions, and he opened up the quarterback race after incumbent starter Barrett Wilkes missed spring practice because of shoulder surgery.

**Ashland** (9-2) hopes to parlay the momentum of a season-ending six-game winning streak into a run at postseason play. The Eagles were second nationally in Division II for scoring defense (9.7 ppg), and their two losses were by a combined seven points. Linebackers Brady Miller (98 tackles) and Allen Lattimore (75) anchor a defense that should be among the nation's best.

**Washburn** (9-3) will try to build on its first MIAA championship behind an offense that returns many of its skill players, including QB Jordan Brill and running back Trent Hearn.

**Minnesota-Duluth** (8-4) grabbed a share of the NCC title in just its second year in the league behind the play of freshman QB Ted Schafke (3,335 passing yards, 33 TDs). Two of Schafke's top targets return in Greg Aker (1,005 receiving yards) and Ross Schumacher (44 catches).



Ross Schumacher, Minnesota-Duluth

Safety Paul Jimenez and defensive end Sir Keelin Hardiman lead a veteran defensive unit that will try to spark **Nebraska-Kearney** (9-3) to a second consecutive Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference title.

**Winona State** (8-3) and **Concordia-St. Paul** (9-3) shared the Northern Sun Intercollegiate championship last year and should battle for conference supremacy once again. Quarterback Drew Aber keys Winona's offense, while Concordia defensive tackle Eric Power is among the country's best defensive players.

**C.W. Post** (10-3) won two playoff games last year before running into East Stroudsburg in the quarterfinals. The Pioneers have one of the nation's best young running backs in sophomore Anthony Lazarus, who rushed for 1,494 yards and 18 touchdowns last season.

With 18 starters returning from an 8-2 team—nine on each side of the ball—**California (Pa.)** is poised to win another Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference West title. Quarterback Joe Ruggiero will have to put up big numbers to help make up for the graduation of All-America running back Antoine Bagwell.

**Southern Connecticut** (8-3) faces a rebuilding season after losing its top two rushers and receivers, but QB Steven Armstrong threw 24 TD passes as a redshirt freshman last year.

## BEST OF THE REST

Several teams in the GLIAC could move up in the standings. **Northwood** (9-3) is coming off a playoff appearance, while **Ferris State**, **Wayne State** and **Gannon** will try to improve on three-win seasons. Receivers Sam Culbreth and Wes Whiteside return from medical-redshirt seasons at Gannon, while Ferris State will build its defense around linebacker Mike Klobucher (109 tackles last season). Wayne State hopes to get a boost from running back Daryl Graham, a transfer from Michigan Tech.

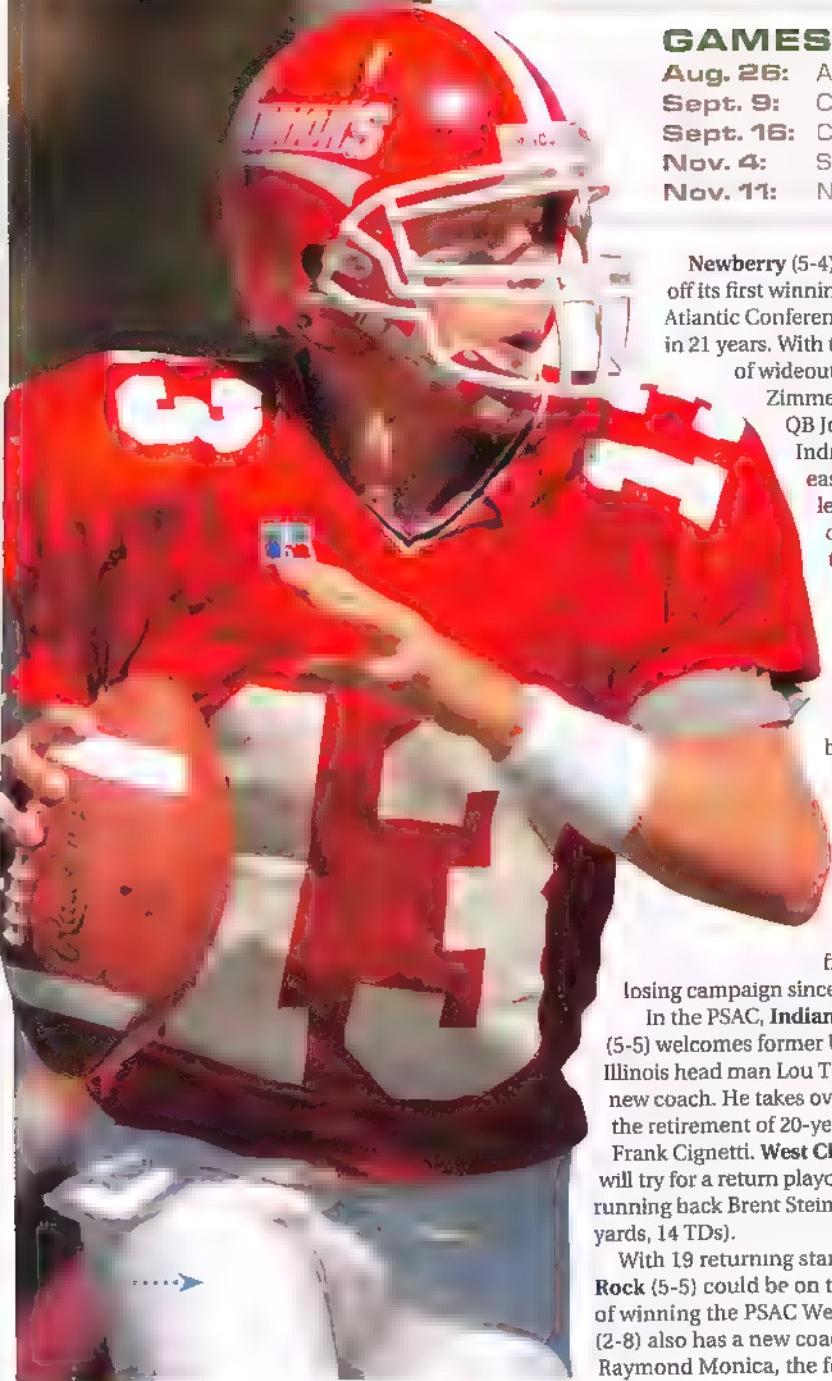
If **Angelo State** (9-3) can find a defense, the Rams should again be among the top Lone Star Conference teams. Kyle Fox rushed for 1,417 yards and 15 TDs his freshman season, and QB Trey Weishuhn (17 TD passes) has his top two receivers returning.

All of the losses by **St. Cloud State** (8-3) were in NCC play, and if the Huskies can improve on that statistic, they could be a playoff contender. Defensive back Mitchell Denne, a preseason All-America selection in 2005, will try to bounce back from a season in which he missed three games due to injury. **Central Washington** (8-2) gets its first dose of NCC competition, and will look for sophomore QB Mike Reilly (30 TD passes) to help make the transition from the Great Northwest Athletic Conference a smooth one. **Western Washington** (4-6), another new NCC member this year, will try to rebound from just its third losing season in the last 19 years.

The Gulf South should again be up for grabs as **West Georgia** (7-4) tries to make inroads to a championship. With nine returning starters on defense, the Wolves should be a contender. **Arkansas Tech** (7-3) lost five offensive starters to graduation, but did pick up transfer quarterback Cole Barthel from the University of Arkansas.

Running back D.D. Holyfield (1,154 yards) leads a list of 13 returning starters at **Southern Arkansas** (6-5), while **Harding** (6-5) looks to replace 25 seniors. **West Alabama** (2-9), which was winless in GSC play last season, brings in Bobby Wallace as the new head coach. Wallace won three straight national championships at North Alabama from 1993-95 before spending eight seasons at Temple.

**Bowie State** (8-4) won the CIAA Eastern Division title last season before falling to N.C. Central in the conference title game. Bulldogs running back Isaac Redman is coming off a 1,512-yard season. **Fayetteville State** (8-4) will rely on a tough defense to try to move up in the league standings.



## GAMES TO WATCH

- Aug. 26:** Albany State at North Carolina Central  
**Sept. 9:** California (Pa.) at Bloomsburg  
**Sept. 16:** C.W. Post at Shepherd  
**Nov. 4:** Saginaw Valley State at Grand Valley State  
**Nov. 11:** North Alabama at West Alabama

Newberry (5-4) is coming off its first winning South Atlantic Conference season in 21 years. With the return of wideout Tymere Zimmerman and QB Josh Stepp, the Indians could easily challenge for the conference title. Lenoir-Rhyne (5-5) snapped an 11-year streak of losing seasons in 2005, but Coach Wayne Hicks now must replace 15 seniors. Tusculum (3-7) will try to rebound from its first

losing campaign since 1999.

In the PSAC, Indiana (Pa.) (5-5) welcomes former University of Illinois head man Lou Tepper as its new coach. He takes over following the retirement of 20-year veteran Frank Cignetti. West Chester (8-4) will try for a return playoff trip behind running back Brent Steinmetz (1,188 yards, 14 TDs).

With 19 returning starters, Slippery Rock (5-5) could be on the brink of winning the PSAC West. Kutztown (2-8) also has a new coach, tapping Raymond Monica, the former

defensive coordinator at Temple and North Alabama. Mansfield (1-10) has struggled recently, but running back Earnest "Poohbear" McNeal is worth the price of admission. The senior already owns the school rushing record.

In the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, Colorado School of Mines (6-5) will try to move up from last year's second-place finish behind QB Garrett Mehl and running back Bryan Florendo. Adams State (6-5) loses five starters from a defense that led the conference for the third straight season. The Grizzlies also lost Defensive Coordinator Marty Heaton to Colorado School of Mines. Chadron State (4-6) will go as far as running back Danny Woodhead takes them. A junior, Woodhead has scored 48 touchdowns in two seasons.

Bentley (7-3) is a contender for the Northeast-10 Conference, as the Falcons look for a return trip to the playoffs after being shut out of the postseason for the first time in three seasons.

Coming off a first-round playoff loss, Albany State (8-2) remains the team to beat in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, while a new coach, Greg Thompson, should have Stillman (6-4) in the SIAC hunt as well.

Independent Missouri-Rolla (7-4) is coming off of its first winning season in 20 years, as junior receiver Ashton Gronewald led the team with 1,080 yards and 17 TDs. Texas A&M-Kingsville (6-4) will try to rebound from an uncharacteristically bad 2-4 record in the Lone Star Conference.

## 2006 DIVISION 2 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

POS.	NAME	COLLEGE
QB	Jimmy Terwilliger, 6-0, 170, Sr., East Stroudsburg	
RB	Jamer Brittingham, 6-0, 203, Jr., Bloomsburg	
RB	Garmaine Race, 5-11, 235, Sr., Pittsburgh State	
RB	Stefan Logan, 5-7, 180, Sr., South Dakota	
TE	Zac Herold, 6-6, 269, Sr., Nebraska-Omaha	
DL	Joe Wohlscheid, 6-7, 310, Jr., Grand Valley State	
DL	Robert Duncan, 6-0, 255, Sr., North Carolina Central	
DL	Chris Zimmerman, 6-4, 265, Sr., Winona State	
DL	Tim McCutcheon, 6-4, 275, Jr., California (Pa.)	
WR	Evan Prall, 6-0, 173, Sr., East Stroudsburg	
WR	Ashton Gronewald, 5-11, 175, Jr., Missouri-Rolla	
WR	Tymere Zimmerman, 6-3, 208, Jr., Newberry	
AS	Anthony Merritt, 6-0, 189, Sr., North Alabama	
PK	Paul Williams, 5-10, 200, Sr., Tarleton State	

QB	Sir Keevin Hardiman, 6-1, 230, Sr., Nebraska-Kearney
RB	Eric Power, 6-5, 268, Sr., Concordia-St. Paul
RB	Michael McFadden, 6-1, 255, Sr., Grand Valley State
DL	Damion DeRosia, 6-6, 325, Jr., Saginaw Valley State
DL	John Tackman, 6-2, 210, Sr., Winona State
LB	Jim Kokrak, 6-3, 225, Jr., Mercyhurst
B	Donald Thorpe, 5-10, 205, Sr., North Alabama
B	Brady Miller, 6-0, 224, Sr., Ashland
DB	Chad Burgess, 5-10, 178, Sr., Presbyterian
DB	Keon Gaither, 6-0, 200, Sr., West Texas A&M
DB	Dan Peters, 6-0, 211, Sr., Shepherd
DB	Fletcher Terrell, 6-1, 190, Sr., Washburn
DB	Jason Davis, 5-10, 176, Jr., Western State

2006

# DIVISION III



## Whether they like it or not, they have dynasty for the ages

**I** don't even bring up certain topics with Larry Kehres.

He doesn't want to hear anything about his Mount Union football team being an NCAA Division III dynasty. And he certainly doesn't want to hear talk about how he has become a coaching legend at the relatively young age of 56.

"Let's talk about something else," Kehres will say before you can complete the sentence about either topic.

The numbers speak loudly, though. The Purple Raiders have won seven of the past 10 national championships, and finished second another year during the stretch.

As for Kehres, he has been National Coach of the Year seven times during his 20 years leading the Purple Raiders. He has also produced 14 undefeated seasons and boasts a career record of 231-20-3 at Mount Union.

But don't think for a second that Kehres will take any credit for that impressive resume.

"I'm proud of the program, especially all the players and coaches who have made this possible," he says. "The key is just not getting too far ahead of yourself. There are certain things you have to do every day—recruiting players and working to develop those players. If you make every

1. Mount Union
2. Rowan
3. Wisconsin-Whitewater
4. Delaware Valley
5. Saint John's
6. Wesley
7. Washington & Jefferson
8. Mary Hardin-Baylor
9. Wilkes
10. Linfield
11. SUNY Cortland
12. Hobart
13. Hardin-Simmons
14. Union (N.Y.)
15. Ithaca
16. Trinity (Texas)
17. Occidental
18. Central (Iowa)
19. Bridgewater (Va.)
20. Adrian
21. Wabash
22. Monmouth
23. Augustana
24. St. John Fisher
25. Capital

day a productive day, you have a chance to make every season productive."

Winning consistently in Division III has become increasingly difficult, too. There are now more than 230 schools playing football in the classification. The expanded playoffs and national exposure that go with them have prompted many schools to place greater emphasis on football.

"The level of play is better than it was 10 years ago in our conference and across the country," Kehres says. "Division III football on the West Coast and in the South has improved so much. It's much tougher."

# TOP 25

Don't expect Mount Union to go away anytime soon. Despite several key losses on defense, the Purple Raiders will be favored to add impressive hardware to their already bulging trophy case on campus.

The weapons on offense are exceptional. Last year, Mount Union became the only college program to ever produce a 3,000-yard passer, two 1,000-yard receivers and two 1,000-yard rushers in the same season. The headache that the Purple Raiders create for opposing defensive coordinators is massive, as Mount Union's offensive unit averaged 41.3 points and 520 yards per game last year—and many of those key players are returning.

Quarterback Mike Jorris threw 35 touchdown passes a year ago, while receiver Pierre Garcon (68 catches, 1,196 receiving yards, 16 TDs) is the team's top option at wideout. Running backs Nate Kmic (1,219 rushing yards) and Aaron Robinson (1,070) combined for 28 TDs, and a very talented offensive line is led by 317-pound tackle Jason Lewis. Defensively, the returnees who will be counted on heavily are Matt Kostelnik and Ryan Fehl in the secondary and Matt Rees at linebacker.

"We had some key losses on defense and some of our first-year starters will have to play like winners from the start," Kehres says.

In New Jersey, there is a lot of talk about Rowan, which has reached the national semifinals in consecutive years. The defensive unit could be something special, with the Profs returning nine starters. Randy Tosh, who lines up at defensive end and linebacker, logged 102 tackles a year ago, including 13 sacks. Linebacker Zach Garren was the New Jersey Athletic Conference's Defensive Rookie of the Year last season after posting 97 tackles and four interceptions. Safety Eric Bailey, defensive end Keith Heimerl and cornerback Jabrill Joseph can all provide big plays.

Two key weapons, quarterback Mike Orihel and running back Ulysses Encarnacion, are back on offense. However, finding quality receivers and consistent line play will be crucial for the Profs.

**Wisconsin-Whitewater** fell just short to Mount Union in the championship game last December and returns several key

players, including nine starters on offense and six on defense. The Warhawks will have to survive a tough conference schedule to return, though.

Quarterback Justin Jacobs, running back Justin Beaver and offensive linemen Brady Ramseier and Max Sakellaris all return after being selected to the first-team all-conference squad. Beaver is back after setting a Division III record with 2,420 rushing yards. Jacobs passed for 3,556 yards and 35 TDs, and receiver Derek Stanley is also a threat.

Defensive lineman Ryan Kleppe had 19.5 tackles for loss last year, and return specialist Neil Mrkvicka is a gamebreaker.

The big question at **Delaware Valley** will be how it reacts under new Coach Jim Clements, who was the team's defensive coordinator last season. The Aggies were 12-1 in 2005 and have eight starters back on offense and 10 on defense.

Finding a replacement for quarterback Adam Knoblauch will be the key. Whoever wins the job will have plenty of help during the transition, with several talented receivers, a proven running back and four offensive linemen returning.



- D 20 seasons as head coach of Mount Union
- D 231-20-3 overall record
- D 16 Ohio Athletic Conference championships
- D 8 national championships
- D 7 National Coach-of-the-Year awards



JUSTIN BEAVER / Wisconsin-Whitewater

CHRIS WARRICK / Rowan

Receiver Don Marshall had more than 1,000 receiving yards in 2005 and is a constant deep threat. David Carmon is also a clutch receiver, while tackle Kevin Harrigan is a load up front. The defense is solid, with end Anthony Silver capable of one big play after another. Cornerback Matt Murphy had five interceptions, and linebacker John Pursell logged 108 tackles.

Saint John's continues to be one of the most consistent winners in Division III under legendary Coach John Gagliardi (432-118-11 in his career). When the Johnnies open their season Sept. 2, Gagliardi will begin his 58th season as a

college head coach, breaking Amos Alonzo Stagg's record in the process.

The Johnnies' defense has been a trademark for years, but only four starters are back this season. Defensive lineman Kevin McNamara is a game-changer, recording 7.5 sacks in a playoff game last year and finishing with 12 sacks for the season. Defensive backs Shawn Schoenberg and John Cloeter are leaders, and the unit will get a boost with the return of linebacker Jamie Steffensmeier (121 tackles in 2003), who missed last season with a knee injury. The offense, which has eight starters back, will be superb with the tandem of quarterback Alex Kofoed (2,972 passing yards, 24 TDs) and receiver Kyle Gearman (53 receptions, 860 yards), along with running back Mike Lofboom.

**Wesley** has made great strides in recent years and this could be the Wolverines' best team, which is a tall statement coming off a 12-win season. Only five starters are back on defense, but they are very capable of leading the unit. Free safety Mario Harris was in on 113 tackles last year while forcing five fumbles, intercepting two passes and blocking three kicks. Defensive end Bryan Robinson had 106 tackles, 18 sacks and seven forced fumbles. On offense, quarterback Chris Warrick threw for 3,710 yards and 37 TDs, as Marcus Lee grabbed 77 of those passes for 1,297 yards. Larry Beavers caught 15 TD passes and fellow receiver Jon Lanouette is back from a knee injury that ended his 2005 season.

**Washington & Jefferson** has been a constant in the Division III playoffs, appearing in 17 of the past 21 postseason tournaments. The Presidents could be very good again this season, as they have eight starters back on defense and seven on offense, along with both kickers. A new quarterback (likely either Ryan Church or Bobby Swallow), will head the offense, but the Presidents will have one of the top offensive lines

around to ease the pressure, led by Chris Hickey and Chris Teter. On defense, the strength will be up front as well, but free safety Nick Cherish has all-star potential.

The players at **Mary Hardin-Baylor** will literally have to put it on the line this season, because the play of the offensive and defensive lines will make or break the Crusaders. The O-line loses four starters and the D-line three, but Coach Pete Fredenburg says there is talent among the replacements. The Crusaders have not lost more than one regular season game in six seasons and have been a playoff regular in recent years. Safety Josh Kubiak and

linebacker Jerrell Freeman will make big plays for the defense. Quarterback Josh Welch was a part-time starter last year and will take over under center this season. He will look to running back Freddie Rollins and receiver Anthony Carter to carry the load.

The surprise of the season could be **Wilkes**, which returns 20 starters from an 8-3 squad that advanced to the 2005 playoffs. Defensively, the Colonels will be stout, with linebackers Kyle Follweiler (116 tackles) and Tyler Henninger (96) combining with linemen Anthony Serafin and Jason Acquaye to lead the unit. The offense is steady and doesn't make mistakes, recording only 12 turnovers a year ago. Tight end Matt Pizarro is one of the nation's best, and receiver Jim Jordan and guard Jordan Purdy are also leaders.

**Linfield** has been hard to handle in the Northwest Conference since making the move over from the NAIA. The Wildcats (60-6 over the past six years) have finished with a winning record in 50 consecutive seasons and are currently on a 41-game winning streak in regular-season contests.

A rebuilding year is ahead, though, especially on offense, where only four starters return. Three of those are offensive linemen, led by tackle Jake Lucey, who could play for any team. Either Tim Benzel or Trevor Scherer will likely win the quarterback job. Defensively, three starters are back on the line—Michael Greenberg, Mike Kettler and Nik Soo.

A team to keep a close eye on is **SUNY Cortland**, which made the playoffs last year for the first time since 1997 even though there were only three seniors on the squad. Nineteen starters return, including 10 from a defensive unit that allowed only 40.9 rushing yards a game. The defense intercepted 23 passes in 10 games and set a school record with nine blocked kicks. Linebacker Josh Jablonski made six of those blocks, tackle Adam Haas had 10.5 sacks and forced one fumble and safety Stef Sair had four interceptions. The Red Dragons like to grind it out on the ground and quarterback Alex Smith can hurt you throwing or running.

**Hobart** has made it to the playoffs in four of the past six years and returns 10 starters on offense and five on defense. Doug Blakowski is back after rushing for 1,364 yards and 17 TDs, and three solid offensive linemen (Mike DePersis, Nino Giambone and Phill Perkins) will make sure he's a threat again. Quarterback Shawn Mizro had 17 TD passes as a junior. Linebacker Jeff Sanders and end Andy Purdie will lead the defense.

**Hardin-Simmons** will be among the best in Division III's South region, as the Cowboys have plenty of experience and big-play pop returning. Quarterback Jordan Neal was granted a sixth year of eligibility after breaking his collarbone last year, and could break the school's passing records this season. The key will be finding consistent receiving threats to join running back

Quinton Jones and tight end Pete Lopez. Offensive linemen Jordan Daniel, Josh Knox and Jordan Maxwell are all proven. Seven starters are back on the Cowboys' defense, led by lineman Chris Jones, linebackers Robert Galusha and Eric Daniels and safety Cody Deaver.

After posting an undefeated regular season for the first time since 1993, **Union** will try to take an additional step this year with three starters back on defense and five on offense. The Dutchmen will have to replace four offensive linemen, but there are plenty of skills on that side of the ball. Running back Tom Arcidiacono rushed for nearly 2,000 yards and 20 touchdowns in 2005, while Steve Angiletta had 1,612 receiving yards. Quarterback Anthony Marotti (3,095 passing yards, 26 TDs) is also solid. The defense is led by defensive linemen Jesse Smith and Dylon Walton-Yedlin and linebacker Vito Pellerito.

**Ithaca** could be a national contender if the quarterback position and three linebacker slots get settled quickly. The Bombers, who have 35 straight winning seasons, return 13 starters. On defense, Joe Napoleone and Tom Blumenauer make things happen in the secondary. And with four offensive linemen back—led by center Justin Brunell, who is a big-time

Look for **Central** to be very competitive if it can develop solid line play. The Dutch made it to the playoffs last year and return a veteran defense and one of the nation's best running backs in Vance Schuring (1,339 rushing yards, 16 TDs). Quarterback Timothy Connell and top receiver Brad Ryals are also back, but the defense will lead the way. Linebacker Andrew Lehn is one of eight returning defensive starters back, while Brett Doud is a strong cornerback and can also produce big kick returns.

Rebuilding efforts must move quickly if **Bridgewater** is going to continue its domination with a sixth straight Old Dominion Athletic Conference title. Only five offensive starters and six defensive starters return. Fortunately for the Eagles, quarterback Jeff Highfill is one of them. He had 713 yards and seven TDs last year, helping lead Bridgewater into the quarterfinals of the playoffs. Tailback Winston Young can carry the load, too. Key players to watch on defense are linebacker Antwaine Campo, cornerback Joshua Knight and end David Clements.

**Adrian** could again be the top gun in Michigan, and the Bulldogs will also have a new stadium to celebrate. The defense will be exceptional, led by linebacker Taz Wallace, who is already the school's all-time-leading tackler. He had 133 stops in 2005, including 11.5 for losses. Nine other returning starters join him on defense. D.J. Howard provides a lot of excitement for the offense as a punt returner and receiver, while kicker James Spencer gives the Bulldogs another weapon.

Defense could carry **Wabash** to big things. The unit, which returns six starters, allowed 65.6 rushing yards, 10.7 points and only 255.5 total yards per game in 2005. Linebacker Adrian Pyneberg had 96 tackles and seven sacks last year. The key for the Little Giants will be finding a quarterback to go along with numerous talented receivers, and Dustin Huff appears to be that man.

**Monmouth** will try to duplicate an exceptional 2005 season and has plenty of experience back (16 starters), but the Hawks need a new quarterback. Evan Haffner is an explosive receiver (five TDs of 35 yards or more) and return man (two punt returns for TDs), while fellow wideout Dan Morrison has great hands. Joe Freitag is solid up front and will man the offensive line. On defense, Anthony Goranson (11 sacks) and linebacker Phil Kleckler will lead the way.

If **Augustana** can find a solid quarterback to go with a veteran offensive line, it could be another big season for the Vikings. The team has a solid running threat in Mike Guzman (1,089 yards). Augustana's defense will again be tough to score on, with linebacker Joe Youngbauer and end Aaron Call capable of making big plays.

**St. John Fisher** could turn a lot of heads this season with 13 starters back from an eight-win team. Defensively, the Cardinals

## GAMES TO WATCH

- Delaware Valley at Wilkes
- WTW Saint John's at Concordia-Moorhead
- Ithaca at St. John Fisher
- Hardin-Simmons at Mary Hardin-Baylor
- WTW Wisconsin-La Crosse at Wisconsin-Whitewater
- WTW Wheaton at Augustana
- Capital at Mount Union
- WTW SUNY Cortland at Rowan
- WTW Albion at Adrian

performer—tailback Alex Baez and tight end Mike Oertel could have big years.

**Trinity** has recently been hard to contain offensively in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference, but the Tigers have several holes to fill with only four starters back this season. Quarterback Jacob Cannon and receivers Justin Thompson and Anthony Hicks are good ones to lean on, though. The defense will be stout, with seven starters back from a squad that allowed only 13 touchdowns and posted 32 sacks and 14 interceptions. Dustin Allen, Ted Barnhart and Tyler Flynn will be the leaders.

Winning is becoming a habit for **Occidental** and there are plenty of weapons available this year, especially with returning quarterback Andy Collins, who tossed 31 scoring passes in 2005. Running back Matt Andersen is also back, but the unit will be young overall. The defense is experienced and talented, led by linebackers Joe Zackary and Anthony Ostland.

are stout, with linebacker Gene Lang (143 tackles) and cornerback Steven Stepnick (4 INTs) leading the unit. James Reile is an offensive weapon at running back for St. John Fisher, which has been to the playoffs three consecutive years.

**Capital** has perhaps the best offensive weapon in the country in quarterback Rocky Pentello, who has passed for just under 9,000 yards in his career. He needs only 1,401 yards to set the career conference record. The bad news is that eight starters on offense were lost following a school-record 10-win season. Plus, the Crusaders play in perhaps the toughest conference (Ohio Athletic) in Division III. That means the defense, led by safeties and twin brothers Kyle and Thom Haasler, will have to be solid from Day One. Kicker Matt Spitz is also a weapon.

#### BEST OF THE REST

With the competitive level rising annually in Division III, numerous teams could challenge for national recognition. **Concordia-Moorhead** is one of those squads, as the Cobbers try to make the playoffs for the third consecutive year. Running back Cory Johnson averaged 7.8 yards per carry last season and joins

seven other returning starters, but a quarterback must be found, along with eight new starters on defense. **Alfred** was 9-2 last year and has 17 starters back, including defensive end Andy Rantz, tailback Elmer Newsome and quarterback Paul Keeley. New Coach Eric Koehler will try to continue the tradition at **Wartburg**. The Knights have the sixth-best winning percentage in the nation over the past 12 years and will build around running back Dan Hammes, receiver Kyle Duchman, defensive back Nick Weber and linebacker Kyle Goodchild. **Rensselaer** went 8-2 in 2005 and returns all 11 starters on offense and six on defense. Tight end Jon Branche, running back Jay Bernardo and quarterback Jimmy Robertson are the playmakers.

**Wisconsin-La Crosse** slumped to 5-4 last season, but the Eagles won't be down long. The team will be playing its 94th season in 2006 and returns 15 starters, led by key performers like secondary aces Kenneth Halvorson and Steve Teebles, along with quarterback John Schumann, receiver Ted Everson and tailback Corey Geldernick. **Wheaton** could go far if it cuts down on turnovers (28 last season) and the defense can rally around Andrew Studebaker and

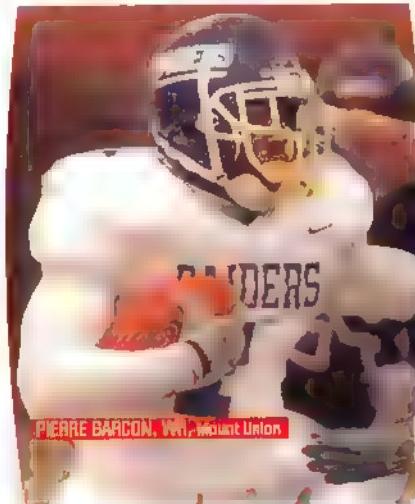
Pete Ittersagen. **Ohio Northern** lost heavily through graduation, but still has all-stars like defensive end Jason Trusnik and quarterback Adam Quirk. **Trinity (Conn.)** was 8-0 last year, has won 30 straight contests and returns 13 starters. Quarterback Chandler Barnard is exciting, but replacing three linebackers will be crucial. **Otterbein** could be ready to take another step forward with 19 starters back from a 7-3 squad. Quarterback Paul Stelzer, linebacker Kieran Johnson and defensive end Michael King will lead the Cardinals.

Adding depth to the competitive Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference is **Wisconsin-Stout**, a team that went 6-4 last season and has 18 starters returning. Receiver Jesse Wendt and 330-pound offensive lineman Jay Runk make things happen. **Albion** will try to repeat as Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association champs and only needs consistent play at quarterback to challenge. Cornerback Chase Chandler is also back after six interceptions last year.

**Howard Payne** is fighting for recognition in the Division III South region and could receive it with 14 starters back, including quarterback Adam Johnson (29 TD passes) and receivers Brandon Tolbert and Chris Jackson. **Washington & Lee** has made quick strides and boasts talented threats like returner Stuart Sitterson, receiver Jack Martin and all-purpose performer Colton Ward.

**Washington (Mo.)** has 10 starters back on offense and end Drew Wethington leads the defense. **College of Wooster** has 19 returning starters, including offensive lineman Rick Drushal and quarterback Justin Schafer. **Lakeland** lost its quarterback, top linebacker and defensive end, but don't count the Muskies out after an 8-3 season in 2005.

**Alma** can cause some problems with quarterback Josh Brehm directing an offense that averaged 509.9 yards per game last year. **Whitworth** could challenge Linfield's recent domination of the Northwest Conference with quarterback Joel Clark among 17 starters returning.



#### 2006 DIVISION III PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

POS.	NAME	SIZE	CLASS	COLLEGE
DL	Brady Ramseler	6-3, 280	Jr.	Wisconsin-Whitewater
DL	Jason Lewis	6-5, 317	Sr.	Mount Union
DL	Jake Lucey	6-4, 275	Sr.	Linfield
DL	Chris Hickey	6-0, 245	Sr.	Washington & Jefferson
DL	Rick Drushal	6-4, 305	Sr.	College of Wooster
TE	Jon Branche	6-4, 245	Sr.	Rensselaer
QB	Rocky Pentello	6-1, 215	Sr.	Capital
RB	Justin Beaver	5-9, 198	Jr.	Wisconsin-Whitewater
RB	Tom Arcidiacono	6-0, 210	Sr.	Union
WR	Pierre Barcon	6-1, 203	Jr.	Mount Union
WR	Steve Angiletta	6-0, 185	Sr.	Union
WR	Jack Martin	6-3, 185	Jr.	Washington & Lee
PK	Beoff Troy	6-3, 190	So.	Merchant Marine

POS.	NAME	SIZE	CLASS	COLLEGE
DL	Adam Heas	6-0, 255	Sr.	SUNY Cortland
DL	Jason Trusnik	6-5, 235	Sr.	Ohio Northern
DL	Chad Glover	6-0, 215	Sr.	East Texas Baptist
DL	Randy Tosh	6-2, 248	Jr.	Rowan
LB	Mark Carlisle	6-2, 230	Sr.	Thomas More
LB	Tez Wallace	6-1, 230	Sr.	Adrian
LB	Gene Lang	5-11, 200	Sr.	St. John Fisher
LB	Jamie Steffensmeier	6-0, 220	Sr.	Saint John's
DB	Mario Harris	5-8, 180	Sr.	Wesley
DB	Aaron Lewis	6-0, 210	Sr.	Carnegie Mellon
DB	Sylvester Walker	6-2, 200	So.	Howard Payne
DB	Steve Teebles	6-0, 180	Sr.	Wisconsin-La Crosse
P	Hunter Hamrick	6-1, 170	Sr.	Mary Hardin-Baylor

# REPORT

## Expect 2006 to be a landmark year for juco impact on BCS conferences

By TONY JIMENEZ

Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal

If big-name four-year schools had their choice, they would rather have a player for four years than two, but countless numbers of schools are still not shying away from recruiting quality junior-college players these days.

From coast to coast, some of the better schools in the BCS conferences are luring junior-college standouts from no-name small towns that play before small crowds with little fanfare to bigger cities to play before larger crowds on national TV. Schools from virtually every part of the U.S.—including Arizona, Florida State, Kansas State, Nebraska (with eight signees), Ohio State, Oklahoma, Michigan State, Oregon, Oregon State, Pittsburgh and South Carolina—expect significant contributions this season from juco transfers.

"Some schools have immediate needs," says Arkansas assistant James Shibley, a former head coach at national power Butler County (Kan.) Community College (1996-99). "It's been great for us. The guys we get may not be All-Americans or all-conference, but they are steady."

Butler County Coach Troy Morrell sent 14 players to NCAA Division I-A schools after last season.

"Those schools know they can get great players from jucos who will help them be successful,"

### 1 Grossmont CC

(Calif.), 13-1 in '05

After having been the coach since 1991, Dave Jordan is turning over the program to his son, Mike, but the beat will definitely go on at the El Cajon, Calif., school, where the Griffins have a 64-9 record since 2000. With 40 sophomores on hand, including 13 returning starters (seven on defense and six on offense), experience and quality depth abounds. Running back Kevin Smith (5-10, 190 pounds) is fast and strong, wide receiver Chris Johnson (6-1, 180) beats defenders with regularity and defensive tackle Magnum Mauga, a linebacker in high school, is the strongest player on the team and a shoe-in All-American. Defensively, look for cornerback Terry Mixon, an outstanding cover guy, and linebacker Aveni Leung Wai, who was slowed by a toe injury last season, to have big years.

says Morrell. "Juco talent across the country is getting better. Coaches [at four-year schools] tell us they like our kids because they are disciplined and good fundamentally. They can do a lot of different things well and the coaches like that."

"The big boys that are up there every year are still going the JC route," says Hank Ives, editor/publisher of *JC Grid Wire*. "It is obvious that the schools recruiting JCs are more than happy with the results."

### TOP 10

- 1 Grossmont CC
- 2 College of the Canyons
- 3 Butler County CC
- 4 Glendale CC
- 5 City College of San Francisco
- 6 Trinity Valley CC
- 7 Snow
- 8 Reedley
- 9 El Camino CC
- 10 Georgia Military



**2 College of the Canyons**

(Calif.), 12-1

Some people call them College of the Canyons, others, just Canyons. Whatever you call them, though, be sure to put a winner's tag with it. There shouldn't be a drop-off from a school that has a combined 27-1 record the past two seasons. Coach Chuck Lyon has 14 returning starters, the best among them being wide receivers Terence Scott (6-0, 175), who is NFL-fast, and Shane Morales (6-2, 195), a physical player; center Joey Miulli (6-0, 255), who anchors a tough offensive line; strong safety Allen Walker, who has a natural instinct for the game; and linebacker Wallace Bates, a transfer from Moorpark (Calif.) College. The defensive line, where five starters return, is tough, but the weak link may be at cornerback, given three defensive backs from last year's team signed with Pac-10 schools.

**3 Butler County CC**

(Kan.), 9-2

Not many teams could lose players the caliber of running back Kenny Wilson (Nebraska), defensive tackle Paul Griffin (Florida State) and wide receiver Anthony Parks (Oklahoma State) and not lose their footing. But at Butler, Coach Troy Morrell has an uncanny knack for plugging players into the right positions and then getting them to max out. Two of only three returning starters—linebacker David McDowell and strong safety Jonathan Warren—are among the best in the country. Quarterback Paul Eck, a sophomore who came to Butler from Ole Miss last season, will be improved after having gone around the Jayhawk Conference block once. Two years ago, the makeup of Morrell's team was much the same as it is now, and that group in 2004 made it to the NJCAA championship game. Hmm.

**4 Glendale CC**

(Ariz.), 11-0

Don't get this Glendale confused with the Glendale in California. Coach Joe Kersting, who is in his 16th season at the Arizona school, says that it happens often, so he makes sure that the "AZ" is visible on his outgoing mail and on his attire. While there are 37 returning lettermen, Kersting says the offense may not be as dynamic as last year's—tough to do given that team averaged 44.1 points a game—but that it will still be potent. The team's ringleaders look to be rangy wide receiver John Means (6-3, 185); linebacker Morris Wooten (6-1, 231), a physical and dominating player who moves extremely well from sideline to sideline; and defensive end Josh Galloway (6-2, 230), a speedy and crushing pass rusher.

**5 City College of San Francisco**

(Calif.), 10-2

Coach George Rush has long passed the biggest test of all: time. He annually produces good teams, but some are better than others. Rush, who became head coach

at the jucos in the city by the bay in 1977, sees plenty of positive signs as he enters his 30th season. Sophomore standout running back Tyreece Jacks, who has a 4.4 time in the 40, will have plenty of muscle in front of him in 6-5, 300-pound bookends Alesana Alesana of Western Samoa and Ako Poti, a local recruit. Defensively, expect big seasons from All-America linebacker Devin Bishop and strong safety De'Shon Sanders. While San Francisco (66-4 the last six seasons) loses at least a dozen solid players each year, Rush's teams always come on with a rush when it counts.

**6 Trinity Valley CC**

(Texas), 9-3

Coach Mark Sartain can still remember the special feeling he had when he was the offensive coordinator at Trinity prior to the 1994 season, when the Cardinals won the NJCAA championship. He has that feeling again, thanks in large part to the return of star running back Eric Ransom, who went to the same high school (University) in Waco, Texas, as San Diego Chargers star LaDainian Tomlinson. Ransom finished third last year in jucos rushing, totaling 1,531 yards as a freshman. While Ransom and placekicker Sinisa Vrvila are All-Americans, not far back are free safety Nevin McKenzie, a big hitter who has gotten stronger in the offseason, and QB Ben McMahan, an elusive athlete and quality passer.

**7 Snow**

(Utah), 10-2

As Snow's defensive coordinator the last six seasons, Steve Coburn poured his heart and soul into stopping opposing offenses. Now, as the Badgers' head coach, he'll try and maintain that same all-out effort on defense and offense. With 48 letterman (five returning starters on offense and five on defense) to work with, he'll have lots of experience on the field. Quarterback Cade Cooper, a 6-2, 195-pounder who has a superb throwing arm, and feature back Matt Asiata will lead the offense. Defensively, 6-0, 309-pound tackle Tonga Tea will shake some offensive linemen up with his mere presence, while linebacker Jameson Fitt can hold his own anywhere on the field.

**8 Reedley**

(Calif.), 10-1

Coach Michael White's team has only a pair of starters returning, but that means little in a program that always lures top players to campus from around the nation. Quarterback Drew Branch, a non-starter a year ago, and wideout Jose Garcia, who started in 2005, will be one of the best offensive duos in the California jucos ranks. Branch is solid (6-3, 210) and Garcia, who also returns kicks, is shifty and crafty like Barry Sanders. Also expect big things from Japanese kicker Lane Yoshida, who made 64 of 85 extra-point attempts last year, and freshman defensive tackle John Paul (6-5, 275) from Immokalee, Fla. Reedley is one of only a handful of schools

in California with dorms for football players, which is why half of its 55-player roster is from outside the state.

**9 El Camino CC**

(Calif.), 11-1

A year ago, Coach John Featherstone's Warriors had one of the most breathtaking offenses at any collegiate level, averaging 481.9 yards and 43 points per game. It would be unrealistic to expect those kinds of numbers again, but do expect a staunch offense and a stiffer defense this time around. Despite the fact 15 players exited with NCAA Division I-A scholarships, El Camino should again be a big winner. Quarterback Lyle Moevao, who threw for 2,652 yards and 29 TDs a year ago, leads the offense. He will get plenty of help from talented running back J.J. Bass, who averaged 7.2 yards per carry as a freshman; center/guard Sila Moala, who anchors an offensive line that lost five starters; and wide receiver Kayne Farquharson. Defensively, look for good things from tackle Rolando Barragan and corner Damilyn Tanner.

**10 Georgia Military**

9-2

Seventh-year Coach Bert Williams' team's strength will come on offense, where there is talent and depth galore. The top returning is QB Kelvin Todd, whom Williams says "runs like a scalded dog." Other returning standouts on offense include wide receiver Bobby Taylor, who averaged 21 yards per catch as a freshman, and Pedro Bennett, a 6-6, 355-pound behemoth who anchors the line. Add star freshman Dan Wideman, a prolific passer, and tailback James Poe III, a powerful runner, to the mix and the offense looks to be as good or better than any Williams has had in while at the school. Defensively, keep an eye on All-America linebacker Boston McConnell, who is fast and physical, and defensive end Jarius Wynn.

BEST OF THE REST	
<b>11</b>	College of the Sequoias (Calif.), 8-3
<b>12</b>	Fresno City (Calif.), 7-3
<b>13</b>	Pearl River (Miss.) CC, 8-1
<b>14</b>	Blinn (Texas), 7-3
<b>15</b>	College of San Mateo (Calif.), 8-3
<b>16</b>	Coffeyville (Kan.) CC, 9-3
<b>17</b>	Mt. San Antonio (Calif.), 5-5
<b>18</b>	Iowa Central CC, 9-2
<b>19</b>	Grand Rapids (Mich.) CC, 9-2
<b>20</b>	Gulf Coast (Fla.) CC, 7-3
<b>21</b>	Santa Rosa (Calif.) JC, 8-3
<b>22</b>	Nassau (N.Y.) CC, 9-2
<b>23</b>	Moorpark (Calif.), 5-5
<b>24</b>	Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, 9-3
<b>25</b>	Foothill (Calif.), 8-3

## TOP JUCOS MOVING ON

## OFFENSE

POS.	NAME	HT	WT	JUCO (2005 SCHOOL)
QB	Brent Schaeffer	6-2	195	College of the Sequoias, Calif. (Mississippi)
RB	Brian Flowers	5-9	190	E. Camino, Calif. (Idaho)
RB	Kenny Wilson	6-0	220	Butler, Kan. (Nebraska)
RB	Dario Camacho	5-10	200	Citrus, Calif. (Purdue)
OL	Corey Actis	6-5	295	Bakersfield, Calif. (Mississippi)
OL	Brett Leeds	6-4	280	Glendale, Ariz. (New Mexico State)
OL	Ofa Mohetau	6-3	340	College of the Sequoias, Calif. (Texas Tech)
OL	James Tretheway	6-6	300	San Mateo, Calif. (Arizona)
OL	Brandon Walker	6-3	315	Coffeyville, Kan. (Oklahoma)
WR	Maurice Purify	6-4	210	City College of San Francisco, Calif. (Nebraska)
TE	Jeff Clark	6-4	235	L.A. Harbor, Calif. (San Jose State)

## DEFENSE

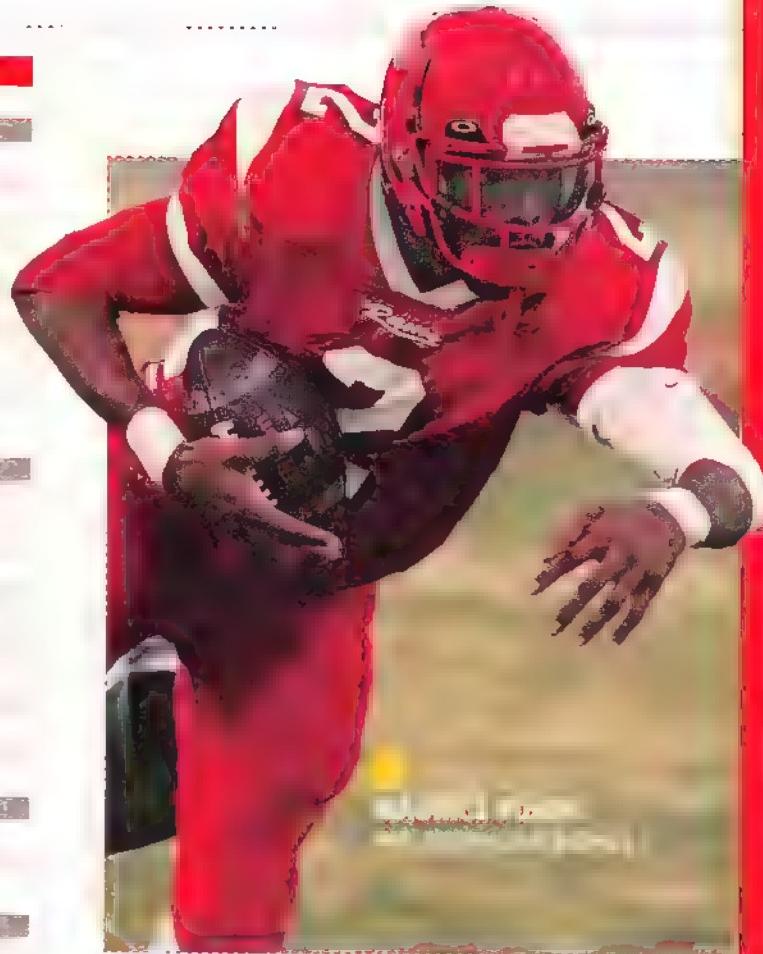
POS.	NAME	HT	WT	JUCO (2005 SCHOOL)
DL	Ervin Baldwin	6-2	252	Reedley, Calif. (Michigan State)
DL	Walter Fisher	6-3	265	Coffeyville, Kan. (Tennessee)
DL	Paul Griffin	6-1	287	Butler, Kan. (Florida State)
DL	Sean Merrill	6-4	290	Gulf Coast, Miss. (Southern Miss)
LB	Larry Grant	6-3	225	City College of San Francisco, Calif. (Ohio State)
LB	Joey LaRocque	6-4	235	College of the Canyons, Calif. (Oregon State)
LB	Misi Tupe	5-11	245	Dixie State, Utah (Texas A&M)
DB	Nehemiah Warrick	6-1	198	Hutchinson, Kan. (Michigan State)
DB	Scott Broughton	6-1	205	Georgia Military (Oklahoma State)
DB	Andre Jones	6-0	195	Fresno City, Calif. (Nebraska)
DB	Nate Ness	6-2	190	El Camino, Calif. (Arizona)

## SPECIALISTS

POS.	NAME	HT	WT	JUCO (2005 SCHOOL)
P	Jared Armstrong	6-3	235	William Rainey Harper, Ill. (Purdue)
ATH	Darrell Hutson	5-10	185	Grossmont, Calif. (Washington State)

## OTHERS

POS.	NAME	HT	WT	JUCO (2005 SCHOOL)
DL	Clarence Bailey	6-7	320	Lackawanna, Pa. (South Carolina)
DB	Johnathan Batson	6-2	195	Cisco, Texas (Texas A&M)
DL	Jeff Benjamin	6-2	260	Riverside, Calif. (Purdue)
DL	Shannon Boatman	6-7	320	Tyler, Texas (Florida State)
DL	Chris Bradwell	6-4	265	Northeast, Miss. (Troy)
DB	Castine Bridges	6-2	195	Diablo Valley, Calif. (Missouri)
LB	Casper Brinkley	6-3	250	Georgia Military (South Carolina)
DB	Blake Bueltei	6-1	180	Butler, Kan. (Kansas)
DL	J.D. Craigman	6-4	250	Mendocino, Calif. (Kentucky)
RB	Marcus Cross	5-11	210	Garden City, Kan. (Utah State)
RB	J.T. Deiderichs	6-2	235	Dixie State, Utah (Washington State)
WR	Charles Dillon	6-1	180	Ventura, Calif. (Washington State)
LB	Mark Dodge	6-3	235	Feather River, Calif. (Texas A&M)
DB	Coye Frances	6-1	190	American River, Calif. (Oregon State)
DL	Jeremy Gibbs	6-2	280	Northeastern Oklahoma A&M (Oregon)
OL	Victory Haines	6-7	285	Snow, Utah (Nebraska)
QB	Bruce Hall	6-0	205	Northeast, Miss. (Mississippi)
OL	J.D. Hamilton	6-4	300	Copiah-Lincoln, Miss. (Mississippi State)
OL	Ian Hammond	6-3	300	Saddleback, Calif. (Syracuse)
QB	Omar Haugabook	6-1	200	Dodge City, Kan. (Troy)
TE	Jason Hawkins	6-3	255	San Bernardino Valley, Calif. (Mississippi)
DE	Louis Holmes	6-5	280	Scottsdale, Ariz. (Arizona)
RB	James Johnson	5-11	200	Blinn, Texas (Kansas State)
OL	Philip Loadholt	6-9	345	Garden City, Kan. (LSU)
WR	Kenny Malone	6-2	210	Mesa, Ariz. (Northern Arizona)
D.	Moses Manu	6-3	260	E. Camino, Calif. (Kansas State)
OL	Sherrone Moore	6-5	300	Butler, Kan. (Oklahoma)
OL	Carl Nicks	6-5	330	Hartnell, Calif. (Nebraska)
QB	Jimmy Oliver	6-0	180	Pearl River, Miss. (Jackson State)
DB	Ashlee Palmer	6-2	210	Compton, Calif. (Washington)
WR	Anthony Parks	6-0	190	Butler, Kan. (Oklahoma State)
WR	Angelo Richardson	6-1	185	Santa Rosa, Calif. (Arizona State)
DB	Lowell Robinson	6-0	195	Erie, N.Y. (Pittsburgh)
RB	Dantrell Savage	5-9	185	Gulf Coast, Miss. (Oklahoma State)
DL	Dorian Smith	6-3	250	College of the Desert, Calif. (Oregon State)
RB	Ryan Torain	6-0	205	Butler, Kan. (Arizona State)
DB	Justin Tyron	5-9	185	College of the Canyons, Calif. (Arizona State)
ATH	Toddrick Verdell	6-3	215	Butler, Kan. (Florida State)
TE	Gerald Washington	6-6	255	Chaffey, Calif. (JSC)
DL	Roderkus Wright	6-4	275	Grossmont, Calif. (turned pro)



## SUPER SOPHOMORES

## OFFENSE

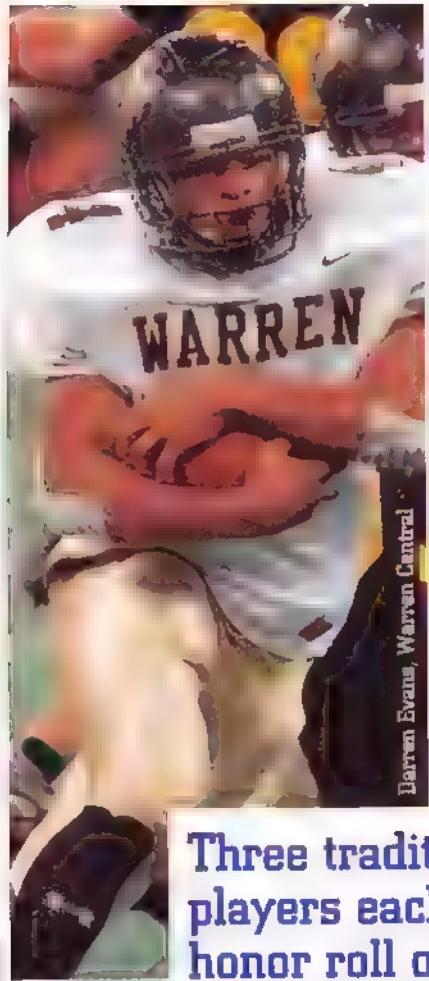
POS.	NAME	HT	WT	JUCO (2005 SCHOOL)
QB	Lyle Moewao	6-0	225	El Camino, Calif.
RB	Joe Chatman	5-10	195	Fullerton, Calif.
RB	Eric Ransom	5-10	185	Trinity Valley, Texas
RB	Cameron Montgomery	6-1	210	Northeast, Miss.
OL	Courtney Abbott	6-8	340	East Mississippi
OL	Brody Dixon	6-5	310	William Rainey Harper, Ill.
OL	C.J. Bryant	6-2	310	Grossmont, Calif.
OL	Ako Poti	6-5	295	City College of San Francisco
OL	Larry So'oalo	6-4	310	Fresno City, Calif.
WR	Roger Frazier	6-1	180	Hutchinson, Kan.
TE	Brennan Houston	6-4	265	Cerritos, Calif.

## DEFENSE

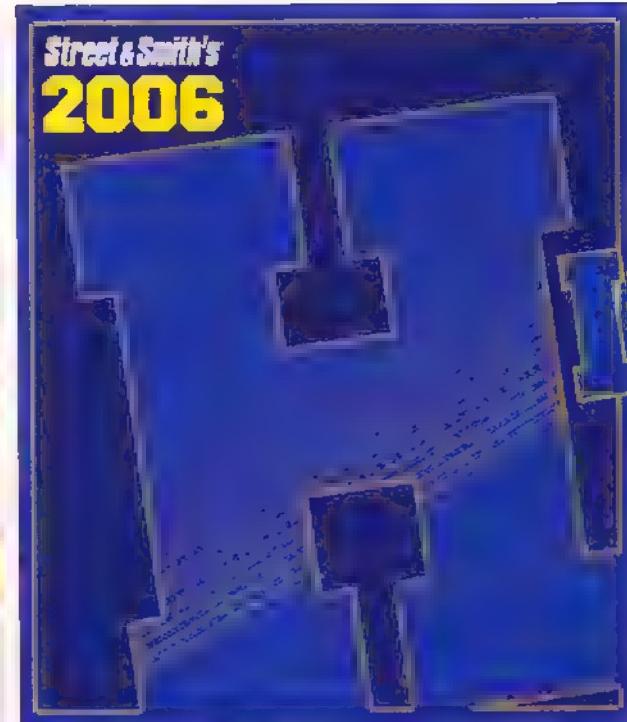
POS.	NAME	HT	WT	JUCO (2005 SCHOOL)
DL	Kellen Belcher	6-3	280	Dodge City, Kan.
DL	Magnum Mauga	6-0	265	Grossmont, Calif.
DL	Luis Vasquez	6-3	250	Arizona Western
DL	Josh Galloway	6-3	230	Glendale, Ariz.
LB	Devin Bishop	6-3	230	City College of San Francisco
LB	Boston McConnell	6-2	235	Georgia Military
LB	David McDowell	6-2	245	Butler, Kan.
DB	Gary Chandler	5-10	180	Coffeyville, Kan.
DB	Terry Mixon	6-1	190	Grossmont, Calif.
DB	Ryan Mouton	5-11	190	Blinn, Texas
DB	Woody Turenne	6-1	180	College of Sequoias, Calif.

## SPECIALISTS

POS.	NAME	HT	WT	JUCO (2005 SCHOOL)
AP	Aaron Woods	5-9	185	Santa Rosa, Calif.
PK	Sinisa Vrvilo	6-1	230	Trinity Valley, Texas



Darren Evans, Warren Central



## ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Three traditional prep powers own two players each on our 25th annual Top 50 honor roll of high school football stars.

By Doug Huff

**L**eading the way on the 25th annual Street & Smith's High School All-America Football Team are three talent-laden high schools—Lakeland, Fla., Oaks Christian of Westlake Village, Calif., and Warren Central in Indianapolis—each with two players on the 50-member honor roll, which includes representatives from 22 states.

The Lakeland High selections are running back Chris Rainey and defensive lineman John Brown, who have helped the Dreadnaughts win their last 30 games and two consecutive state Class 5A titles. Oaks Christian is represented by quarterback Jimmy Clausen and utility choice Marc Tyler, a running back/linebacker. From Warren Central High are running back Darren Evans and defensive back Jeremy Finch.

Florida leads the honor roll with seven selections,

while California and Texas have six each. Georgia comes in with five players honored.

Sixteen of the Top 50 rising seniors had committed to college scholarship offers by early spring. The defending national champion, the University of Texas, had verbal commitments from three of the Top 50 players from in-state schools. offensive linemen Tray Allen of South Grand Prairie High and Matt Nader of Austin Westlake High, and defensive lineman Andre Jones of El Paso Andress.

Michigan, Florida and Georgia had received two commitments each. The Wolverines were the early choice for both Finch and quarterback Ryan Mallett of Texarkana, Texas. Florida landed Rainey and tight end Aaron Hernandez of Bristol Central in Connecticut. Georgia nabbed two in-state prospects in linebacker

Rennie Curran of Brookwood High and offensive lineman Tanner Strickland of Berrien County in Nashville.

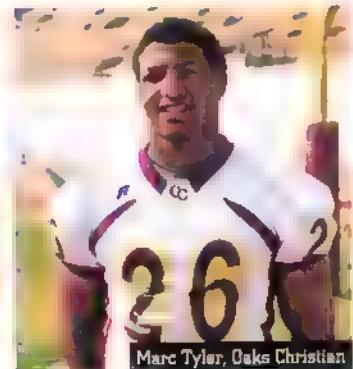
Other early verbal commitments include Clausen to Notre Dame; QB Pat Bostick of Manheim Township High in Lancaster, Pa., to Pittsburgh; QB Chris Forcier of St. Augustine High in San Diego to UCLA; offensive lineman Josh Oglesby of St. Francis High in Milwaukee to Wisconsin; linebacker Christopher Galippo of Servite High in Anaheim, Calif., to USC, and linebacker Chris Strong of South Panola High in Batesville, Miss., to Ole Miss.

Here's a position-by-position breakdown of Street & Smith's Top 50 selections:

### ★ QUARTERBACKS

Two of the seven honorees are from California—Clausen and Forcier.

HIGH  
SCHOOL



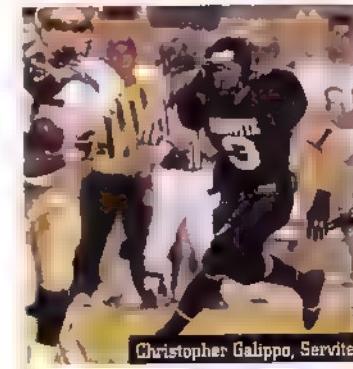
Marc Tyler, Oaks Christian



Aaron Hernandez, Bristol Central



Chris Forcier, St. Augustine



Christopher Galippo, Servite



Noel Devine, North Fort Myers



Jason Muangs, Southridge



Courtesy of EA Sports

TOP 50 HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS TO WATCH			
QUARTERBACKS			
Pat Bostick	6-4	220	Manheim Township
Jimmy Clausen	6-2	200	Oaks Christian
Chris Fawcett	6-3	182	St. Augustine
Will Korn	6-2	200	Byrnes
Ryan Mallett	6-6	230	Texas
Jason Munns	6-0	225	Southridge
Matt Simms	6-2	191	Don Bosco Prep
RUNNING BACKS			
John Clay	6-0	250	Racine Park
Noel Devine	5-8	180	North Fort Myers
Darren Evans	6-0	200	Warren Central
Robert Hughes	6-0	220	Hubbard
Caleb King	5-11	186	Parkview
Chris Rainey	5-8	160	Lakeland
UTILITY PLAYERS			
Kell Britt	6-1	190	Northside
Kevin Gray	5-11	175	East Grand Rapids
Joe McKnight	6-0	190	John Curtis Christian
Tyrod Taylor	6-1	185	Hampton
Mark Tyler	6-1	215	Oaks Christian
WIDE RECEIVERS			
Akeemous Bell	6-2	210	Dunbar
Marques Simms	6-2	190	Mira Mesa
Deonte Thompson	5-9	186	Glades Central
TIGHT ENDS			
Aaron Hernandez	6-4	235	Bristol Central

Clausen enters the season with 7,314 career passing yards, 97 touchdowns and has completed 435 of 676 attempts. As a sophomore, he passed for 3,676 yards and 57 TDs. Last season, he completed 157 of 233 passes for 2,778 yards and 30 TDs, throwing only five interceptions. As for Forcier, he completed 182 of 311 throws last season for 2,634 yards and 32 TDs, with only eight interceptions. He also rushed for 415 yards and four scores.

Will Korn set numerous state records last season, throwing for 4,164 yards and 53 touchdowns for unbeaten powerhouse James Byrnes High in Duncan, S.C.

Mallett, who is rated by some scouting services as having the strongest throwing arm in this group, connected on 135 of 221 passes for 2,219 yards and 21 TDs, throwing only six interceptions last season.

Bostick made headlines when he passed for seven TDs in one half of a game as a sophomore.

and in two years he has passed for more than 5,000 yards and 62 TDs. Last season, the All-State pick was 181-of-295 for 2,810 yards and 34 TDs, while getting picked off only six times.

In New Jersey, Matt Simms is a two-time all-state selection at Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey. The four-year varsity veteran is the son of ex-NFL QB Phil Simms.

Washington's top signal-caller is Jason Munns. Last season, he completed 160 of 259 passes for 2,178 yards and 32 TDs. He has thrown for 4,534 yards and 64 TDs in his career.

## RUNNING BACKS

Pick your rusher, as it is loaded this year, beginning with Rainey, a two-year All-State pick who plays for the unbeaten state championship team at Lakeland High. The Florida Gators recruit is also a top track sprinter and long jumper, and is one of two tailback honorees from Florida.

The other Sunshine State back is Noel Devine of North

Fort Myers High. The explosive runner chalked up more than 1,900 rushing yards last season after gaining almost 2,000 as a sophomore.

The Midwest representatives at this position start with two-time Wisconsin All-State selection John Clay, who led Racine Park High to the Division 1 state title last season while rushing 166 times for 2,032 yards and 30 TDs. Clay, who is being touted as one of the state's best all-time backs, was named the 2005 EA Sports National Junior of the Year.

Evans was the EA Sports National Sophomore of the Year in 2004 when he scored 27 TDs and rushed for more than 2,000 yards for Warren Central High's Class 5A Indiana title team. Last season, he scored 39 TDs and surpassed 2,000 rushing yards to collect another state title.

The top running backs in Illinois and Georgia are Robert Hughes of Hubbard High in Chicago and Caleb King of

## KICKERS

WT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Michael Taylor	15-10	Westgate	Pensacola, FL
Jimmy Stevens	15-7	Heritage Hall	Oklahoma City, OK

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

WT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Fray Allen	6-6	305	South Grand Prairie, TX
Javaris Burke	6-6	325	Phoenix, AZ
Anthony Davis	6-6	315	Piscataway, NJ
Ryan Miller	6-7	285	Columbus, OH
Matt Nader	6-4	295	Westlake, OH
Josh Ogleby	6-2	320	St. Francis, WI
Tanner Strickland	6-4	315	Berrien County, MI
James Wilson	6-5	305	Nearby, FL
Lee Ziemba	6-2	305	Rogers, AR

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

WT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Marvin Austin	6-5	300	Calvin Coolidge, MD
John Brown	6-4	285	Lakefield, MN
Everson Griffen	6-4	263	Aqua Fria, AZ
Andre Jones	6-4	305	El Paso, TX
Ben Martin	6-5	220	Cardinal, NC

## LINEBACKERS

WT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Allen Bailey	6-3	252	Darien, GA
Rennie Curran	6-10	200	Lilburn, GA
Christopher Gallop	6-3	230	Anahuac, TX
Ricchetti Jones	6-3	230	Lincoln, TX
Chris Strong	6-2	240	South Panola, MS

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

WT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Dionne Akers	6-0	175	St. Mary Prep, CA
Eric Berry	6-0	180	Creekside, GA
Eugene Cifield	6-3	200	Colerain, OH
Ikeemefun Cubia	6-2	195	Robert E. Lee, TX
Lorenzo Edwards	6-2	217	Edgewater, FL
Jeremy Finch	6-3	200	Warren Central, MS
Donovan Warren	5-11	175	Long Beach Polytechnic, CA

Parkview High in Lilburn, Ga.—both highly coveted college recruits.

## UTILITY PLAYERS

Kodi Burns is a two-time All State choice at QB for Northside High in Fort Smith, Ark. The versatile threat has amassed 5,963 total yards in two years. Last season, he passed for 2,182 yards and 20 TDs and rushed for 965. As a sophomore, he gained 1,935 yards with 21 TDs through the air and rushed for 881.

Two-way back Kelvin Grady of East Grand Rapids, Mich., was the only junior on the Super All-State Team last year. He rushed for 1,716 yards and 21 TDs in nine games.

Louisiana's top player, Joe McKnight, led John Curtis Christian of River Ridge to its 20th state championship last season by scoring three long-distance TDs (including one on a punt return) in the title game. The state Class 2A Defensive Player of the Year returned two of his five interceptions for scores and was a do-it-all player on both sides of the ball.

Like Burns, Tyrod Taylor was a pass-run threat. He led Hampton High in Virginia to a 13-1 record and a state 3A title, passing for 1,485 yards and nine TDs and rushing for 1,005 yards and 21 TDs. In his career, he has 71 total TDs and 5,500 yards.

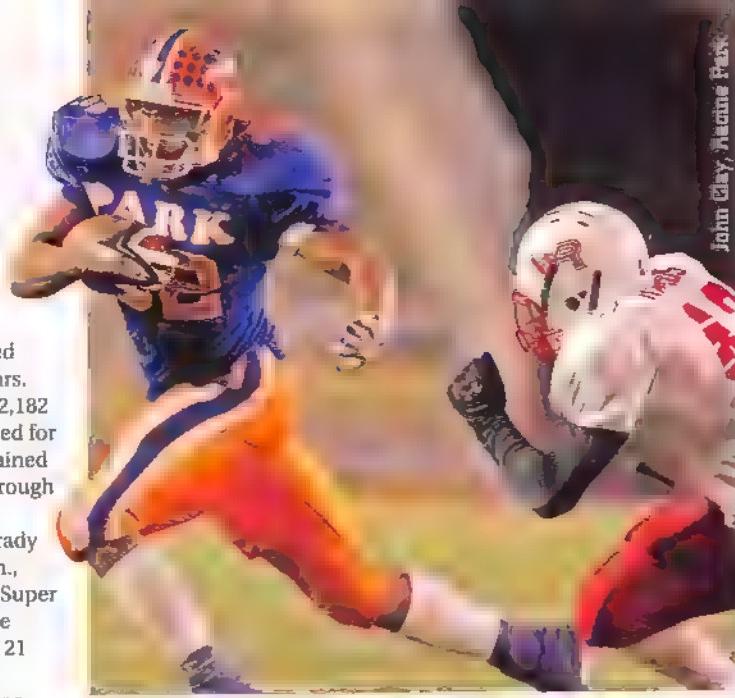
Tyler, the son of former 49ers and Rams running back Wendell Tyler, was named state Junior Player of the Year by *CalHiSports.com*. He scored 45 total TDs and averaged 12 yards a carry with 2,196 yards on the ground. He also caught 28 passes for 413 yards. On defense, Tyler was a standout linebacker.

## WIDE RECEIVERS

Three productive receivers earn the All America nod.

Arrelious Benn of Dunbar High in Washington, D.C., caught 50 passes for 1,126 yards and 17 TDs as a junior all-star selection. Mira Mesa (Calif.) High's Marques Simas recorded 41 catches last season for 875 yards and 16 scores.

Florida is the home of several touted receivers, but Deonte Thompson of Glades Central High in Belle Glade heads the list after catching 12 TD passes and taking six kick returns for scores as a junior.



John Gandy/NFL Photos

Georgia recruit Curran (5-10, 200), who led Bookwood in tackles the last two seasons. He had 198 stops as a junior and 145 as a sophomore.

Galippo (6-3, 230) was charted with 161 stops in 2005, including 112 solo tackles, eight tackles for loss and five blocked kicks. Strong (6-2, 240) may have missed much of his sophomore season with an injury, but bounced back to lead South Panola to a third straight state title. He was credited with 73 solo stops, 21 assists and four sacks.

The other honored linebackers both earned All State recognition as juniors—Allan Bailey (6-3, 252) of McIntosh County Academy in Darien, Ga., and Richetti Jones (6-3, 230) of Lincoln High in Dallas.

## TIGHT END

Hernandez (6-4, 235) earned All-State honors on offense and defense as a junior at Bristol. In 10 games, he set state records with 1,807 receiving yards and 24 TDs. He caught 67 passes, including nine in one game for 376 yards. As a defensive end, he had 12 sacks and blocked four kicks.

## KICKERS

Michael Taylor of Washington High in Pensacola, Fla., converted 12 of 17 field-goal attempts last season, including a 57-yard try, and booted 48 of 62 kickoffs into the end zone.

Heritage Hall (Okla.) High's Jimmy Stevens tied a national record with 22 regular-season field goals and can connect on 50-plus-yard attempts.

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The preps just seem to get bigger and bigger on the O-line, as the nine honored blockers in the trenches are an average 6-foot-7 and 309 pounds.

Two of the massive teenagers hail from Texas and are the previously mentioned Longhorn commitments—Allen (6-4, 305) and Nader (6-6, 295).

Ryan Miller (6-7, 285), a three-sport performer at Columbine High in Littleton, Colo., was charted with 43 pancake blocks last season while allowing no sacks. He's also a thrower for track and field and a wrestler. Lee Ziembra (6-7, 305) is an All-State selection from Rogers, Ark., who recorded 25

pancake blocks and 25 knock-down blocks in a dominating junior campaign.

Other top linemen are Javario Burkes (6-6, 325) of Moon Valley High in Phoenix; Anthony Davis (6-6, 315) of Piscataway, N.J.; James Wilson (6-5, 305) of Nease High in St. Augustine, Fla.; plus Oglesby (6-7, 320) and Strickland (6-4, 315).

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The defensive front hails from four states and the District of Columbia, and is led by Marvin Austin (6-3, 300) from Calvin Coolidge High in Washington, D.C. The two-time area all star had 12 tackles for loss, eight sacks and five forced fumbles last year.

Florida's No. 1 ranked team, Lakeland High, features John Brown (6-1, 285). Some recruiting services think he might be the top overall prospect in the talent rich state this season.

Everson Griffen (6-4, 263) of Agua Fria High in Avondale, Ariz., is rated by some recruiting services as the nation's best at his position.

Andress High's Jones (6-4, 305) was an All-State honoree in Texas last season.

Ohio's top prospect is defensive end Ben Martin (6-5, 225) from La Salle High in Cincinnati. He had 28 solo stops, 42 assists, 10 sacks and 15 tackles for loss last season.

## LINEBACKERS

Three of the five honored defenders have already committed to colleges, one being

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

Versatility is the common thread among these seven secondary selections. They all can play multiple positions, as does Dionte Allen of St. Mary Prep in Orchard Lake, Mich., who has also lined up at wide receiver.

Eric Berry of Creekside High in Fairburn, Ga., takes the snaps at quarterback when not starring on defense. Colerain (Ohio) High's Eugene Clifford is also a kick returner and wide receiver, and plays basketball and runs track. During last football season, he returned two of his six interceptions for scores and two punts for TDs. He was charted with 37 tackles and 25 assists.

Tekkerian Cuba was the leading tackler the last two years for Robert E. Lee High in Tyler, Texas, and is athletic enough to be utilized at other positions.

Four-year starter Lorenzo Edwards, of Edgewater High in Orlando, can play cornerback, safety, rover, linebacker or receiver.

Finch not only plays in the secondary, but is also a regular at wide receiver and punter. He had 10 interceptions last season and was credited with 53 solo stops and 29 assists.

Donovan Warren is the latest touted defensive back from the Poly football factory in Long Beach, Calif., which has produced more NFL players than any other school. The athletic Jackrabbit also can play the offensive skill positions, too.

# PREP SENIORS TO WATCH



## QUARTERBACKS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Zach Anderson	Yamhill-Carlton	Yamhill, OR
Robert Arnhem	Edgewater	Orlando, FL
Cory Bean	Hillsboro	Hillsboro, OR
Clay Belton	Northmont	Clayton, OH
T.C. Borcky	Lake Highland Prep	Orlando, FL
John Brantley	Trinity Catholic	Ocala, FL
Robbie Brown	Thomas	Webster, NY
Tyler Bruce	Tri-West	Izton, IN
Marcus Brumitt	Lakeville South	Lakeville, MN
Nathan Bussey	Dunbar	Washington, DC
Lee Chapple	Greater Atlanta Christian	Norcross, GA
Audie Cole	Monroe	Monroe, MI
Rodney Cox	Harnett Central	Angier, NC
L.D. Crow	Countryside	Clearwater, FL
Jerman Delgado	Banner Beach	Seattle, WA
Nathan Dick	Allen	Allen, TX
Chris Dwyer	St. Mary's	Worchester, MA
Matthew Evans	Milton-Union	West Milton, OH
Nick Fanuzzi	Churchill	San Antonio, TX
Stephen Garcia	Jefferson	Tampa, FL
Perci Garner	Dover	Dover, OH
Brent Goska	Lincoln	Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Logan Gray	Rock Bridge	Columbia, MO
Phi Haig	Henry Sibley	Mendota Heights, MN
Jamie Hampton	Cedar Bluff	Cedar Bluff, AL
Chris Hart	Southeast	Bradenst, FL
Justin Hickman	Armwood	Seffner, FL
Wes Kimmel	Hutchinson	Hutchinson, KS
G.J. Kinne	Gilmer	Gilmer, TX
Peter Lalich	West Springfield	Springfield, VA
Jarrett Lee	Brenham	Brenham, TX
Stefan Loucks	Pulaski Academy	Little Rock, AR
Randal Mackey	Bastrop	Bastrop, LA
Darryl McFadden	Independence	Charlotte, NC
Keller Moore	Prosser	Prosser, WA
Pete Murdaugh	St. Mary's	Stockton, CA
Josh Nesbitt	Greene County	Greensboro, GA
Keith Nichol	Lowell	Lowell, MA
Mike Paulus	Christian Brothers	Syracuse, NY
Griffin Robles	Spanish Fork	Spanish Fork, UT
Charlie Russell	Morgantown	Morgantown, WV
Justin Siller	St. Mary's	Orchard Lake, MI
Chris Smith	South Point	South Point, OH
Greg Sullivan	Monroe-Woodbury	Central Valley, NY
Conner Teahan	Rockhurst	Kansas City, MO
Alton Voss	Gulf	New Port Richey, FL
Dallas Walker	Madison Ridgeland	Madison, MS
Chris Whitney	St. Joseph's	Philadelphia, PA
Russell Wilson	Collegiate	Richmond, VA
Mark Wright	Warren Robins	Warren Robins, GA

## RUNNING BACKS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Armando Allen	Miami Lakes	Hialeah, FL
Victor Anderson	St. Xavier	Louisville, KY
Chris Batte	Gainesville	Gainesville, FL
Doug Beaumont	Male	Louisville, KY
Dee Bell	Olathe East	Olathe, KS
Mike Brown	Brandon	Brandon, FL

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN		HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Raymond Carter	Crenshaw	Los Angeles, CA		Brian Gamble	Washington
Kevin Crouse	Pulaski County	Dublin, VA		Chris Givers	Chillicothe
Enrique Davis	Mosley	Lynn Haven, FL		Broderick Green	Pelham Academy
Jonathan Dwyer	Kell	Marietta, GA		Joseph Haden	Friendly
Antawn Easterling	Northwestern	Miami, FL		Vince Helmuth	Saline
Robert Elliott	Okolona	Okolona, MS		Junior Hemingway	Conway
Troy Evans	Hayward	Hayward, CA		John Hughes	Lincoln
Paul Galloway	Shrine	Royal Oak, MI		Anthony Jacobs	Northfield
Silas Gibbs	Clinton	Clinton, LA		Dreder Johnson	Wayne County
Justin Gibson	Byrd	Shreveport, LA		Sheldon Johnson	Deptford
John Gordon	Taunton	Taunton, MA		DeAngelo Jones	Foothill
Jermaine Griffin	South Panola	Batesville, MS		Connor Kavanaugh	Lincoln
Willie Griffin	McClymonds	Oakland, CA		Kellen Killsgaard	Auburn
Aaron Harris	Baldwin Park	Baldwin Park, CA		Tony Kubes	New Prague
Tommy Henry	Maiden	Maiden, NC		Dion Lecom	Trinity Catholic
Daniel Heron	Warren Harding	Warren, OH		Malachi Lewis	Rio Mesa
Darius Hodge	Glen Mills	Concordville, PA		Phillip Livas	South Terrabonne
Cody Johnson	Waller	Waller, TX		Tony Logan	Piscataway
Brandon Johnson	Doeringuez	Compton, CA		Ryan Matthews	West
Terrence Kerns	Thomas Johnson	Frederick, MD		Mike McDonough	Covina
Dale Martin	Bolingbrook	Bolingbrook, IL		Cameron Newton	Westlake
Xavier Martin	Xavien	Brooklyn, NY		Steve Paskorz	Hampton
Juan Martinez	La Joya	La Joya, TX		Sam Proctor	Dobie
Darius Mitchell	Baldwin	Baldwin, GA		Alondre Rush	Xavier
Ahmed Mokhtar	Mater Dei	Santa Ana, CA		Nathan Sherr	Austin Prep
J.J. Mullins	Clear Creek	League City, TX		John Stamper	West Forsyth
Josh Oglesby	Garner	Garner, NC		Quantavious Sturdvant	West Stanly
Orion Ponder	Colquitt County	Moultrie, GA		Devon Torrence	South
Devon Ramsey	Lawrenceville School	Lawrenceville, NJ		Deontay Twyman	Sherwood
Joseph Reese	Hendrickson	Pflugerville, TX		Shane Vereen	Valencia
Brandon Rutley	Alhambra	Martinez, CA		Mike Williams	St. Bonaventure
Brandon Saine	Piqua	Piqua, OH		Russell Wilson	Collegiate
Carter Sharpe	Smith	Fayetteville, NC			
Kevin Simmons	Kempsville	Virginia Beach, VA			
Rose Simpson	Winton Woods	Cincinnati, OH			
Ollie Sioup	Southwest	Lincoln, NE			
Lamont Smith	Central Catholic	Pittsburgh, PA			
Malcolm Smith	Taft	Woodland Hills, CA			
Bradley Stephens	Memorial	McAllen, TX			
Quan Warley	Thomasville	Thomasville, NC			
Derrick Washington	Raymore-Peculiar	Peculiar, MO			
Foswhitt Whittaker	Pearland	Pearland, TX			
Jonathan Williams	Rose	Greenville, SC			
Morgan Williams	McKinley	Canton, OH			
Nate Williams	Kennedy	Burien, WA			

## UTILITY PLAYERS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Nick Adams	Colleton County	Walterboro, SC
Anthony Anderson	Austin-East	Knoxville, TN
David Arnold	Copley	Copley, OH
Eric Baker	Ed White	Jacksonville, FL
Mark Barnes	Richland Northeast	Columbia, SC
Vincent Browne	David Anderson	Lisbon, OH
Morgan Burnett	North Clayton	College Park, GA
Sean Catrouse	Hubbard	Chicago, IL
John Chiles	Summit	Mansfield, TX
Leroy Diggs	South Panola	Batesville, MS
J.J. Diluigi	Canyon	Canyon Country, CA
Kawika Emsley-Pai	Jackson	Mill Creek, WA
Jacobi Fenner	Hampton	Hampton, VA

## WIDE RECEIVERS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Devin Aguer	Mullen Prep	Denver, CO
Curtis Brown	Gilmer	Gilmer, TX
Alphonso Bryant	Homestead	Lufkin, TX
Dez Bryant	Lufkin	Jonesboro, LA
Gabe Bryant	Jonesboro-Hodge	Chesterfield, VA
Kris Burd	Mattoaca	Lancaster, PA
Ty Bynum	Conestoga Valley	San Lorenzo, CA
Michael Calvin	Franklin	Franklin, TN
Todd Campbell	Barron Collier	Naples, FL
Matt Clements	Williamsport	Williamsport, PA
Shamar Coates	Montbello	Denver, CO
Andrew Davis	Verbum Dei	Los Angeles, CA
Reggie Dunn	Greenwood	Greenwood, SC
Xavier Dye	Glens Falls	Glens Falls, NY
Jimmer Fredette	Coral Gables	Coral Gables, FL
Jason Frierson	Katy	Katy, TX
Michael Fuda	Armstrong	Plymouth, MN
David Gilreath	Glenville	Cleveland, OH
Kyle Jefferson	St. Edward	Lakewood, OH
Kyle Hubbard	Dover	Dover, OH
Dan Ifill	Jackson	Jackson, GA
John Keye	Grandview	Grandview, MO
Brandon Kinne	Round Rock	Round Rock, TX
James Kirkendoll	Syracuse	Syracuse, NY
Marquis Kirkland	Hoboken	Hoboken, NJ
Duval Kumara		



HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Greg Little	Hillside	Durham, NC	Terence Edge	Tn-Cities	East Point, GA
Tyler Maples	Maryville	Maryville, TN	Lonnie Edwards	Brownsboro	Brownsboro, TX
Dynl McCain	Maury	Norfolk, VA	Evan Eike	Bryan	Bryan, TX
Justin McCombs	Bandys	Catawba, NC	John Elliott	East Meadow	East Meadow, NY
Brent McFresh	Stephenville	Stephenville, TX	Marquis Franklin	John Tyler	Tyler, TX
Deon Miller	Lawton	Lawton, OK	Will Furlong	DeLand	DeLand, FL
Matt M'Chell	Chippewa Falls	Chippewa Falls, WI	Garth Gerhart	Morco	Morco, CA
Anthony Morris	Thornton	Harvey, IL	Adam Getts	Lincoln Way East	Frankfort, IL
Ahmad Paige	Sterlington	Sterlington, LA	Sergio Glenn	North Forsyth	Winston-Salem, NC
Jordan Pendleton	Bingham	South Jordan, UT	Jerrod Gooch	Vidor	Vidor, TX
Trey Ray	Thomasville	Thomasville, NC	Gino Gradkowski	Seton LaSalle	Pittsburgh, PA
Karon Robinson	Woodrow Wilson	Camden, NJ	Antwane Greenlee	Hardaway	Columbus, GA
Colin Sandeman	Bettendorf	Bettendorf, IA	Harland Gunn	Central	Omaha, NE
Carlos Smith	Harrisburg	Harrisburg, PA	Maurice Hampton	Phoebeus	Hampton, VA
Brandon Taylor	Franklinton	Franklinton, LA	Stuart Hines	Waxahachie	Waxahachie, TX
Carter Todd	Merced	Merced, CA	Kyle Hix	Holy Cross	Flushing, NY
Terrence Toliver	Hempstead	Hempstead, TX	Todd Huber	Duluth	Duluth, GA
Nick Toon	Middleton	Middleton, WI	Michael Huey	Bowling Green	Bowling Green, KY
Taurian Washington	St. Mary's	Orchard Lake, MI	Emeka Iweka	Aledo	Aledo, TX
Lansford Watson	Lincoln	Brooklyn, NY	Chris Jacobson	Good Counsel	Rolling Hills Estates, CA
Malcolm Williams	Garland	Garland, TX	Nick Jenkins	Hammond	Kilgore, TX
Paul Wilson	Lakeland	Lakeland, FL	Rishaw Johnson	Jesuit	Seattle, WA

## TIGHT ENDS

HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Matt Biasavage	Lancaster Catholic	Lancaster, PA	Ernest McCoy	Glades Central	Belle Glade, FL
Nate Chandler	Mira Mesa	San Diego, CA	Tyler McDermott	Palm Beach Central	Wellington, FL
Jack DiMardo	Hinsdale Central	Hinsdale, IL	Andre McGaskey	La Marque	La Marque, TX
Jon Dito	Gateway	Monroe, PA	Lamar Millstead	Coolidge	Washington, DC
Kevin Estes	Benedictine	Richmond, VA	David Molk	Lemon	Lemon, IL
Bruce Figgins	Shaw	Columbus, GA	Anthony Morgan	Lancaster	Lancaster, TX
Grant Freeman	Paris	Paris, AR	J.P. Nisby	St. Mary's	Stockton, CA
Rob Gronkowski	North	Williamsburg, NY	Wilson Morris	Pickens	Pickens, SC
Jordan Hammond	Lakeeland	Lakeeland, OH	Emeka Nwankwo	Chaminade-Madonna	Hollywood, FL
Ahniard Howard	Brenham	Brenham, TX	Kris O'Dowd	Sainte Marie Catholic	Tucson, AZ
Blaine Ivy	St. Bonaventure	Ventura, CA	Trevor Olson	Richfield	Richfield, MN
Kyle Jefferson	Greenvale	Cleveland, OH	Seth Onor	Monticello	Monticello, AR
Mitch Joseph	Catholic	New Iberia, LA	Garrett Pendergast	Servite	Anaheim, CA
DeAngelo McCray	Jackson	Jacksonville, FL	James Pouncy	Lakeland	Lakeland, FL
Rennie Moore	Camden County	Kingsland, GA	LaShawn Pouncy	Lakeland	Lakeland, FL
Zach Pinalto	Springdale	Springdale, AR	Markiee Preston	Paterson Catholic	Paterson, NJ
Mike Ragone	Camden Catholic	Cherry Hill, NJ	Houston Reynolds	Timpview	Provo, UT
Jordan Scoggins	Trotty	Euless, TX	Quinton Richardson	Spring Valley	Columbia, SC
Zach Smith	West Deptford	West Deptford, NJ	Dustin Robinson	Belleview	Belleview, FL
Nate Stupar	State College	State College, PA	Matt Romine	Tulsa Union	Tulsa, OK
Chris Wertzel	Gresham	Gresham, OR	Chris Sale	Nicewill	Nicewill, FL

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Josh Allison	Lake Orion	Lake Orion, MI	David Smith	Greenville	Greenville, SC
Chris Andrews	Nottingham	Syracuse, NY	Chad Snodgrass	Nitro	Nitro, WV
William Alvarez	C.D. Hylton	Woodbridge, VA	Stephen St. John	Dutch Fork	Irmo, SC
Colin Armstrong	Benet Academy	Lisle, IL	Miles Stroter	King	Chicago, IL
Clyde Aufrer	Raymore-Peculiar	Peculiar, MO	Joe Thompson	Ravenwood	Brentwood, TN
Devon Ayers	Neptune	Neptune, NJ	Spencer Thompson	Plainview	Plainville, TX
Joseph Barksdale	Cass Tech	Detroit, MI	Brandon Washington	Edison	Miami, FL
Dan Barry	Lake Catholic	Mentor, OH	Darian Weems	Taft	Woodland Hills, CA
Jeff Battipaglia	St. Joseph's	Philadelphia, PA	Josh White	Brother Rice	Birmingham, MI
Blake Behrens	Brophy Prep	Phoenix, AZ	Nick Schepis	Walsh Jesuit	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Bryan Bulaga	Manan Central	Woodstock, IL	Mitchell Schwartz	Palisades	Pacific Palisades, CA
Matt Bush	Bergen Catholic	Oradell, NJ	Derek Sherrod	Caledonia	Columbus, MS
Mike Caputo	Millard North	Omaha, NE	Pau Simkovich	Greater Latrobe	Latrobe, PA
Micah Carter	Woodrow Wilson	Beckley, WV	Matt Simmons	Racine Park	Racine, WI
Carlos Cevas	Piano	Piano, TX	David Smith	Greenville	Greenville, SC
Darion Church	Lake Taylor	Norfolk, VA	Chad Snodgrass	Nitro	Nitro, WV
Martin Coleman	Edison	Huntington Beach, CA	Stephen St. John	Dutch Fork	Irmo, SC
Wayne Crawford	Chestnut Hill	Philadelphia, PA	Miles Stroter	King	Chicago, IL
Brandon Curry	Boyd Anderson	Lauderdale Lakes, FL	Joe Thompson	Ravenwood	Brentwood, TN
Trey Davis	Farmington	Farmington, MN	Spencer Thompson	Plainview	Plainville, TX
Sam DeMartini	Notre Dame	Sherman Oaks, CA	Brandon Washington	Edison	Miami, FL
Dane Donker	Eastern	Voorhees, NJ	Darian Weems	Taft	Woodland Hills, CA
Kyle Dooley	Papillion-LaVista	Papillion, NE	Josh White	Brother Rice	Salisbury, MD

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Akeem Ayers	Verbum Dei
Will Blackwell	West Monroe
Kevin Bryant	Hallandale
Jontae Bumpus	Muskogee
Victor Butler	Leavenworth
Marcus Campbell	Bloomfield
Toru Celotto	Royal
Jacoby Coleman	West Brook
Los Angeles, CA	
West Monroe, LA	
Hallandale, FL	
Muskogee, OK	
Leavenworth, KS	
Bloomfield, CT	
Simi Valley, CA	
Beaumont, TX	

## LINEBACKERS

HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Manny Abreu	Union Hill
Jeremy Bednarz-Gray	Detroit Catholic
Brodenck Bine	Creighton-DeSales Hall
Austin Box	Enid
Joshua Byrnes	Boyd Anderson
Devonte Campbell	Forestville
C.C. Carpenter	West Monroe
Nate Carter	Las Vegas
Chris Colasanti	Brother Rice
Chris Cooke	Pace
Justin Cueller	Central
Andrew Dailey	Washington
Antwon Dixon	Terry
Ben Eaton	Gilman
Anthony Elliot	Fairfield
Linden Fowler	Napa
Zach Goebel	Mater Dei
Jay Hancock	Memorial

# OTHER FRESH SENIORS TO WATCH



	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Maurice Harris	Homestead	Homestead, FL
Vince Harris	Saint Salle	Cincinnati, OH
Justin Hickman	Hubbard	Chicago, IL
Jermale Hines	Glenville	Cleveland, OH
Tucker Jackson	Bowling Green	Bowling Green, KY
Austin Jensen	Manatee	Bradenton, FL
Alex Johns	Gonzaga	Washington, DC
Tony Johnson	Milton	Milton, FL
Jamie Jones	Springdale	Springdale, AR
Pat Lazier	Watson Whitman	Bethesda, MD
Tolbert Matthews	Norview	Norfolk, VA
Bryce Mchaul	Eden Prairie	Eden Prairie, MN
Robert Mullins	Dorsey	Los Angeles, CA
Aaron Nagel	Lemont	Lemont, IL
Tyler Nielsen	Humboldt	Humboldt, IA
Keenan Robinson	East	Plano, TX
Brian Rolle	Immokalee	Immokalee, FL
Kevin Rouse	Saint Catholic	Saint Louis, MO
Kenny Rowe	Poly	Long Beach, CA
Marcus Sanders	Westfield	Houston, TX
Tanner Shuck	Jenks	Jenks, OK
Brian Smith	St. Thomas Aquinas	Overland Park, KS
Kendall Smith	South Sumter	Bushnell, FL
Reid Smith	Oak Lawn	Oak Lawn, IL
Blake Sorenson	Eden Prairie	Eden Prairie, MN
Austin Stafford	Hayward	Hayward, CA
Derrick Stephens	Cypress Falls	Houston, TX
George Tabron	Central Catholic	Canton, OH
Aaron Taliaffero	Gloucester	Gloucester, VA
Will Thompson	St. Peter's Prep	Jersey City, NJ
Domon Thornton	Hobrook	Lenoir NC
John Tyndall	Pacific Grove	Pacific Grove, CA
Kevin Watt	Glenbard West	Glen Ellyn, IL
Charles White	Blythewood	Blythewood, SC
Dan Williams	Belmont Hill	Belmont, MA
J'Courtney Williams	Christchurch	Christchurch, LA
Marshall Williams	Parkview	Lilburn, GA
Jamil Wilson	Highland	Albuquerque, NM

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Antwoine Baker	Jordan	Los Angeles, CA
Shane Becker	Becker	Becker, MN
Jordan Bernstein	Lincoln	Des Moines, IA

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Eric Brock	Bellevue	Bellevue, WA
Marquis Boone	Sandalwood	Jacksonville, FL
Vince Brown	Gainesville	Gainesville, FL
Ryan Broyles	Norman	Norman, OK
Artis Chambers	Snider	Fort Wayne, IN
Chris Culliver	Garner	Garner, NC
Drew Cumberland	Pace	Pace, FL
Chuck Crenshaw	Central Dauphin	Harrisburg, PA
Vontae Davis	Dunbar	Washington, DC
Mark Dell	Harrison	Farmington Hills, MI
Donnie Everage	Wayne	Huber Heights, OH
Cedric Everson	Mumford	Detroit, MI
C.J. Fleming	Highland Springs	Highland Springs, VA
Jameel Fleming	Juan Seguin	Arlington, TX
Stephon Francois	East St. John	Reserve, LA
Stefan Gage	Henniger	Syracuse, NY
Gary Gray	Richland Northeast	Columbia, SC
Jesse Hamilton	Racine Park	Racine, WI
Vincent Hester	Friendley	Fort Washington, MD
Jwan James	Williston	Williston, FL
Ronald Johnson	Muskegon	Muskegon, MI
Chad Jones	Southern Lab	Baton Rouge, LA
Marshall Jones	Oaks Christian	Westlake Village, CA
Phelon Jones	McGill Toolen	Mobile, AL
Markieith LaRoda	St. Joseph	Hammonton, NJ
Brady Locker	Ferndale	Ferndale, WA
Jeff Maehi	Paradise	Paradise, CA
Lance Mitchell	Murphy	Pasadena, CA
Davon Morgan	Varina	Richmond, VA
Markieith LaRoda	St. Edward	Lakewood, OH
Quinton Richardson	St. Edward	Lakewood, OH
Nate Oliver	Mountain Ridge	Phoenix, AZ
Jonathan Ott	Lincoln	Tallahassee, FL
Brandon Paul	North	Omaha, NE
Niles Paul	Susquehannock	Glen Rock, PA
Chad Powell	O'Dea	Seattle, WA
Evan Rodriguez	North Bergen	North Bergen, NJ
James Scott	Seabreeze	Daytona Beach, FL
Terrence Shaw	Vailey Stream	Vailey Stream, NJ
Callan Sherd	Rockford	Rockford, MI
Harrison Smith	Knoxville Catholic	Knoxville, TN
Gino Sturdivant	Gierville	Cleveland, OH
Golden Tate	Pope John Paul II	Hendersonville, TN
Earl Thomas	West Orange Stark	Orange, TX
James Thomas	La Marque	La Marque, TX
Mike Tice	Edina	Edina, MN

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Marcus Thomas	Morgan Park	Chicago, IL
Courtney Viney	Edison	Fresno, CA
Cornelius Ward	Friendly	Fort Washington, MD
Ben Wells	Ozen	Beaumont, TX
Willie White	Camden County	Kingsland, GA
Doug Wiggins	North Miami Beach	North Miami Beach, FL
Adrian Williams	Westlake	Atlanta, GA
John Williams	Breaux Bridge	Breaux Bridge, LA
Michael Williams	St. Bonaventure	Ventura, CA
Ryan Williams	Rain	Mobile, AL
Major Wright	St. Thomas Aquinas	Fort Lauderdale, FL

## KICKERS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Alex Alejo	Gridley	Gridley, CA
Billy Bennett	Torrey Pines	San Diego, CA
Robbie Broach	Hahnville	Boutte, LA
Craig Bunney	Ambridge	Ambridge, PA
Jake Campbell	Regis	Eau Claire, WI
Joshua Cherry	McCook	McCook, NE
Sal DiMuro	Boca Raton	Boca Raton, FL
Jaime Fernandez	Lufkin	Lufkin, TX
Chris Fuchs	Charter	Pembroke Pines, FL
Dwayne Gatlin	Paletto	Miami, FL
Blake George	South Caldwell	Hudson, NC
Chris Hinkebein	Providence	Charlotte, NC
Radi Jabouri	East St. John	Reserve, LA
Philip Jordan	Ware County	Manor, GA
Chris Lorditch	Archbishop Wood	Warrington, PA
Alex Minnear	Edgewood	Madison, WI
Kris Rasp	Nathan Hale	Seattle, WA
Michael Scott	Franklin	E. Paso, TX
Chris Summers	Hanover SE	Fishers, IN
Alex Tejada	Springdale	Springdale, AR
Dannie Torres	Diamond Bar	Diamond Bar, CA
James Shaughnessy	Midway	Waco, TX
Stanley Shurson	Ramona	Ramona, CA
Matt Szymanski	A&M Consolidated	College Station, TX
Brooke Van Meulen	Monte Vista	Danville, CA
Brandon Walker	Findlay	Findlay, OH
Jared Witter	West	Shawnee Mission, KS
Alex Zendejas	Rowwood	Glendale, AZ

### ★ ARKANSAS

Dennis Johnson, RB, Texarkana

### ★ CALIFORNIA

Vaughn Doty, OL, Ventura St. Bonaventure

Khaled Holmes, OL, Santa Ana Mater Dei

Jamar Jarrett, DL, San Marcos Mission Hills

Milton Knox, RB, Lake Balboa Birmingham

Dennis Shearnate, WR, Anaheim Servite

Tyron Smith, OL, Moreno Valley Rancho Verde

### ★ DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Reginald Ellis, DL, Dunbar

### ★ FLORIDA

Jahleel Addae, RB, Riverview

Byron Harvey, OL, Ocala Trinity Catholic

Karell Hatcher, DB, Delray Beach Atlantic

Aldarius Johnson, WR, Miami Northwestern

Conner Kempe, QB, North Palm Beach Benjamin

T.J. Lawrence, DB, Lakeland Kathleen

Martavious Odoms, WR, Pahokee

Neiko Pate, RB, DeLand

Eric Smith, RB, Seffner Armwood

Sean Spence, LB, Miami Northwestern

### ★ GEORGIA

Chris Clay, RB, Cuthbert Randolph-Clay

### ★ INDIANA

Bryan Schroeder, RB/DB, Ramsey North Harrison

Nick Sliger, DL, Fishers Hamilton Southeastern

### ★ KANSAS

Logan Dold, RB/LB, Garden Plain

### ★ KENTUCKY

Brian Winklepleck, DB, Owensboro Catholic

### ★ LOUISIANA

DeAngelo Benton, WR, Bastrop

Randle Mackey, QB, Bastrop

### ★ MARYLAND

Kenny Tate, WR/DB, Hyattsville DeMatha

### ★ MISSISSIPPI

Darius Barksdale, DB, Batesville South Panola

### ★ NEBRASKA

Baker Steinhauer, OL, Lincoln Southwest

### ★ NORTH CAROLINA

Anthony Council, RB, Dudley Southern Wayne

C.J. Wilson, RB/WR, Lincolnton

### ★ OHIO

Darius Ashby, RB, Cincinnati St. Xavier

Dalyn Campbell, QB, Kenton

Reggie Comeaux, OL, Massillon

### ★ PENNSYLVANIA

David Poslusny, DB, Aliquippa Hopewell

Terrell Pryor, DL, Jeannette

### ★ SOUTH CAROLINA

A.J. Green, WR/DB, Summerville

Robert Quinn, LB, Fort Dorchester

### ★ TEXAS

Riley Dodge, QB, Southlake Carroll

Victor Johnson, DB, Waco

Tré Newton, RB, Southlake Carroll

J.B. Shugarts, OL, Klein

R.J. Washington, DE, Keller Fossil Ridge

### ★ UTAH

Cody Raymond, WR, Sandy Jordan

### ★ VIRGINIA

Jeron Gouveia, DB, Stone Bridge

### ★ WASHINGTON

Alameda Taamu, OL, Seattle Rainier Beach

### ★ WEST VIRGINIA

Josh Jenkins, OL, Parkersburg



(listed alphabetically by state)

### ★ HOOVER, AL (14-1 in '05)

Five senior starters (six on each side of the ball) return from a team that won a state-record fourth straight Class 6A title. The Bucs will be led again by QB Ross Wilson (5-11, 155), the MVP of the state finals. Other offensive veterans include RB Dennis King (5-9, 180) and four linemen—Patrick Crump (6-4, 290), Tommy Sikora (6-2, 280), Michael Hayes (6-2, 290) and center Gary Cramer (5-10, 225). The defensive regulars are touted linemen Kerry Murphy (6-5, 325) and Josh Chapman (6-2, 285), LB Michael DeJohn (6-0, 225), CB Camryn Stokes (5-9, 170) and safeties Kweisi Mitchell (5-11, 185) and Josh Linson (5-10, 165). A newcomer is offensive tackle Ryan Pugh (6-3, 275), a transfer from Spain Park High.

### ★ DE LA SALLE, CONCORD, CA (11-2)

Fourteen starters, including nine on offense, return for Coach Bob Ladouceur, who has a 27-year record of 307-19-3. Two defensive players earned All-State Underclassman honors from CalHiSports.com last season—defensive back Lonnie Wishom (6-0, 180) and junior LB Brady Amack. Other defensive veterans are LB Albert Rosette and linemen Louis Baltazar, Marco Noce and Zack Klaas. The offensive stars include linemen Stephen Valenzuela, Tyler Hess and junior Jordan Bouey; WR John Hendershott; QB Mike MacGillivray; and running backs Tilman Pugh, Tim Maclin and Dominguez Dickerson.

### ★ OAKS CHRISTIAN,

WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA (13-0)

The talent-laden Lions return 19 starters, including two preseason Street & Smith's All-America selections, while seeking to extend a 31-game win streak. Quarterback Jimmy Clausen (6-3, 200), a Notre Dame recruit, and running back/linebacker Marc Tyler (6-0, 215) enter their final seasons with high expectations. Clausen passed for more than 3,600 yards and 57 scores as a sophomore before tossing 30 TDs and amassing 2,778 yards last season. Tyler scored 45 TDs and rushed for 2,196 yards as a junior. Other touted seniors include CB Marshall Jones (6-1, 195), defensive linemen Duke Lemmens (6-4, 240), OL Joe Dembesky and junior defensive back Chris Potter (5-11, 175).

### ★ ST. BONAVENTURE, VENTURA, CA (14-0)

The Seraphs return 11 starters among 30 lettermen from last season's top ranked team by CalHiSports.com. With six section titles in the last seven years, six seniors will lead the defending CIF Southern Section Division IV champions. They are wide receiver/linebacker Blaine Irby (6-3, 218), two-way backs Mike Williams (6-0, 190) and Michael Lee (5-9, 175), wide receiver/defensive backs Glenn Wakam (5-11, 188) and Alex Diaz (5-9, 175) and tight end/linebacker Angie Morales (5-11, 185). Two touted juniors are two-way lineman Vaughn Dotsey (6-5, 340) and running back/linebacker Ryan Panapa (6-0, 230). Other key underclassmen are juniors Andrew Sims (6-3, 230), a two-way lineman/tight end/defensive lineman Ryan Medina (6-2, 215), and wide receiver/defensive back Chad Kurtz (6-2, 175).

### ★ GLADES CENTRAL,

BELLE GLADE, FL (12-1)

The Raiders appear poised to contend for a state title, led by preseason All-America WR Deonte Thompson (6-0, 186), who caught 12 TD passes and added six kick returns for scores last season. Also back are QB Bryan Mann (2,017 yards and 23 TDs last season), RB Damien Berry (6-0, 170), WR Tarus McKinley (6-0, 190) and four massive linemen—Earnest McCoy (6-6, 300), Maurice Byrnes (6-4, 335), Jetavious Jackson (6-4, 300) and Jacoby Love (6-2, 280).

### ★ LAKELAND, FL (15-0)

The Dreadnaughts are loaded as they enter the season with 30 straight wins and are seeking their third consecutive Class 5A title. Eight All-State players are among 12 returning starters. Two are preseason Top 50 All-America choices—running back Chris Rainey (5-8, 160), a University of Florida recruit, and defensive lineman John Brown (6-1, 285). Twins LaShawn and James Pouncey are Florida State recruits. Other All-State picks on hand are RB Jamar Taylor (5-11, 210), WR Paul Wilson (6-1, 175) and defensive backs Ahmad Black (5-10, 165) and Steve Wilkes. Key seniors include TE/DE Jordan Hammond (6-5, 230) and LB Nick Moody. The quarterback will be Blair Castle (6-4, 180).

### ★ BROOKWOOD, SNELLVILLE, GA (14-1)

The Broncos are coming off a state Class 5A runner-up season with hopes of taking the next step to a title. Returning are nine starters, including five on defense. That unit is led by two-time team-leading tackler Rennie Curran (5-10, 200), a University of Georgia recruit who has 343 stops the last two years, including 198 as a junior. Receiver/DB Patrick Moran (5-10, 175) and LB/RB Joe Moore (5-11, 195) are also two-year starters. Other veterans include LB/RB David Kelley (5-11, 205), WR/DB Demetre Ledum (5-8, 173) and two-way linemen Nick Biggs (6-1, 250) and Mitchell King (6-1, 275). Jared Reine (6-0, 180), a transfer from New Orleans, will also be a factor at wideout.

### ★ WARNER ROBINS, GA (9-2)

The Class 4A powerhouse Demons are making the move to Class 5A and have 35 lettermen (including 10 starters) back to make the transition smooth. Quarterback Mark Wright (6-2, 205), who missed last season with a knee injury after leading the team to a title in 2004, returns, as do several other key players. They include wingback Antoine Hamilton (5-9, 165), center Robert Luciano (6-1, 245), offensive tackle Lee Hopf (6-3, 270), linebackers Brian Buford (5-11, 195) and Roderick Rose (5-10, 190), cornerback Laron Scott (5-10, 170) and defensive ends Justin Cowart (6-4, 215) and junior Jordan Sanders (6-2, 215). Luciano and Rose are three-year starters.

### ★ LINCOLN-WAY EAST,

FRANKFORT, IL (13-0)

The Griffins won their first Class 8A title in only their fifth season and should be favored again with five starters on each side of the ball returning.

Four three-year starters include offensive lineman Adam Getts (6-4, 250), also a top track-and-field thrower; placekicker/punter Tom Lynch (5-11, 190); wingback Andy Gerritsen (6-2, 190); and inside linebacker Jon Olofsson (6-0, 220). Other veterans are center Phil Wing (6-0, 230), OL Jake Lucas (6-2, 260), junior running back Dan Cebula (5-10, 190), defensive tackle D.J. Pirkle (6-1, 280), linebackers Brendan Mulheran (5-11, 85) and John Koszulinski (6-1, 210) and defensive backs Ryan Weber (5-10, 175) and Marvin Cosby (5-9, 150).

### ★ WARREN CENTRAL,

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (14-1)

The Warriors will be seeking a fourth straight Class 5A title and the first under Coach Steve Tutsie. Sixteen starters are back, including two preseason Top 50 All-America choices in DB Jeremy Finch (6-3, 200) and RB Darren Evans (6-0, 208). Finch, a University of Michigan recruit, had 10 interceptions in 2005 and also plays wide receiver. Evans, the EA Sports National Sophomore of the Year in 2004, ran for 39 TDs and his second straight 2,000-yard rushing season as a junior. Other top recruits include WR Adrien Robinson (6-5, 220) and DT Jeff Boyd (6-4, 265), while Matt Upshaw takes over at QB. Offensive linemen Andrew McDonald (6-7, 280), Kyle Rawl (6-1, 240), Bryce Stone (6-0, 255) and Stephen Brewer (6-2, 250) return. Sophomore Ed Hazellett, a basketball standout, is a 6-8 tight end.

### ★ JOHN CURTIS CHRISTIAN,

RIVER RIDGE, LA (10-1)

The Patriots will be seeking a fifth state title in the last six years after repeating as Class 2A champs last season. Coach J.T. Curtis has guided 20 state-title teams since 1975 and has a 36-year record of 427-46-6. This year's team returns nine offensive and seven defensive starters, including preseason Top 50 All-American Joe McKnight, a two-way back and kick returner. Other offensive veterans include TE Kevin Wild, center Bryan Munch and linemen Ruston Rodrigue and Andrew Nierman. Other players to watch are RB David Seaman, WR Vincent Allen and WR/DB P.J. Smith, along with touted sophomore RB Kenny Cain and QB Kyle Collura. Noseguard Jonathan English and DE Michael Collins anchor the defensive line, while Jacob Dufrene (6-2, 225) heads a linebacking corps that includes Mike Walker, Lincoln Jones and Preston Numa (6-4, 250), who may move back to tackle. The secondary includes four-year regular Colby Arceneaux and juniors Robby Green and Alex Lauricella.

### ★ SOUTH PANOLA, BATESVILLE, MS (15-0)

The Tigers are fortified to extend their winning streak of 45 games and capture a fourth straight Class 5A title. Coach Ricky Woods has 10 returning starters—five on each side of the ball—as a nucleus. Six are three-year starters, including linebacker Chris Strong (6-3, 250), a Street & Smith's preseason All-American and one of three Ole Miss recruits. Others are third-year QB Leroy Diggs (5-11, 175) and tailback

Jeramie Griffin (6-1, 238). Two-way lineman Hunter Bailey (6-2, 310) is a Mississippi State recruit. Two juniors will be third-year starters—offensive lineman Cameron Wagner (5-10, 310) and two-way back Darius Barksdale (5-11, 180).

### ★ ROCK BRIDGE, COLUMBIA, MO (7-3)

The Bruins are loaded with experience that took them to a state Class 6 quarterfinal appearance last season. Rock Bridge returns nine starters on each side of the ball and faces a challenging schedule that includes games in Arkansas and Nevada. Touted QB Logan Gray (6-2, 175) runs the offense, while All-State offensive tackle Jeremy Guier (6-1, 265) anchors the line. Other veterans include LB/TB Andrew Adams (6-0, 225), two-way back Scott Concannon (5-10, 185), linebacker Johnny Wacker (6-1, 225), WR/DB Brandon Gerau (6-0, 160), two-way guard Jason Reddy (6-0, 305), center/DE Clay Minchew (6-2, 255) and junior two-way lineman Dan Schufeldt (6-4, 285).

### ★ ST. PETER'S PREP, JERSEY CITY, NJ (12-0)

New Jersey's top-ranked team last season returns 17 starters, including nine on offense. The four two-way starters are junior QB/free safety Will Hill (6-1, 195), All-State LB/RB Will Thompson (6-1, 230), TE/DE Ravi Pradahang (6-3, 235), and LB/RB Shariff Harris (6-1, 195). Other offensive veterans include wide receivers Mike Lang (6-1, 175) and Nick Lalumia (6-2, 170), junior FB Anthony Giannobile (5-10, 200), center Emerson Huranga (6-0, 260) and guards Rich Brennan (6-0, 260) and Harold Milne (5-10, 245). On the defensive side are linebackers Joe Valent (6-2, 210) and Steve Pankiewicz (5-11, 250), end Anthony Andreadis (6-1, 280) and sophomore noseguard Darryl Green (6-1, 290).

### ★ INDEPENDENCE, CHARLOTTE, NC (15-0)

The Patriots enter the season with a nation-wide-best 92 straight wins and will seek a seventh straight Class 4A title. Prolific quarterback Darryl McFadden (6-2, 210) leads seven returning offensive starters after completing 230 of 464 passes for 3,877 yards and 33 TDs last season. Other offensive veterans include wide receiver Jason Barnes (6-4, 190), linemen Boog Simmons (6-0, 280) and junior Eric Thompson (6-2, 265) and junior tight ends Mario Carter (6-4, 235) and Jordan Woods (6-3, 215). Three defensive starters are back—linebackers Darryl Smith (6-0, 205) and Justin McFadden (5-10, 207), who's a converted noseguard, and lineman Dewitt Dixon (6-0, 230).

### ★ ST. XAVIER, CINCINNATI, OH (15-0)

The Bombers return 11 starters from the school's first Division I state-title team. Anchoring the offense is junior tailback Darius Ashley (5-9, 185), who rushed for 1,633 yards and 28 TDs last year. The other five offensive starters returning are guards Wes Schroder (6-4, 285) and Max Bauman (6-2, 265), tackle Howard Patton (6-2, 285), TE Mike Knuiven (6-4, 220) and junior WR Dan Milligan (5-8, 160), a touted placekicker/punter/kick returner who could be tested at quarterback. Two other juniors figure in the Bombers' plans—running backs Luca Romeo and Stephen Ball. The defense is led by safety Fred Craig (6-2, 205), CB John Saellinger

(6-0, 175); inside linebackers Nick Schneider (6-3, 230) and Mike Hanlon (5-10, 225); and junior DE Joe Langen (6-2, 220), a part-time starter last year.

### ★ ST. EDWARD, LAKEWOOD, OH (12-1)

The Eagles have 13 starters back from last season's state Division 1 quarterfinal team. The leaders are two-way back Nate Oliver (6-0, 200), an Ohio State recruit, and RB Frank Edmonds, who rushed for 2,800 yards last season. Other offensive veterans are WR Kyle Hubbard (6-4, 225), tackle Tom Lavisky (6-2, 280) and two-way lineman Ben Kuhar (6-3, 250). Other defensive regulars returning are middle guard Debo Elias (5-10, 235), CB Joe Davis (5-10, 175), inside linebackers Jeff Lucas (6-3, 215) and Mike Stounnsern (6-2, 220) and outside linebackers Diaunte Morrow (6-0, 190) and Curt Skoczen (6-0, 210).

### ★ TULSA UNION, TULSA, OK (13-1)

The Redskins have won the last two state Class 6A titles, but will play for a new head coach who is also familiar with championships. Kevin Wright, who guided Warren Central to the last three Indiana Class 5A crowns, takes the reins. Union returns three starters on each side of the ball as it looks to extend a 57-game home win streak. Anchoring the offensive line is touted Matt Romine (6-7, 275). The QB is junior Brandon Rogers. Top receivers are TE Jacobs Tigges (6-3, 245) and wideouts Casey Ketchum (6-3, 190), Blake Ziegelnhorn (6-3, 185) and Don Hawkins (6-4, 190). Fullback Harold Cox is the top runner. The defense is led by senior backs Eric Williams (6-0, 170) and Houston Stamp (6-1, 180) and junior Jonathan Ameen (5-10, 170). A touted junior linebacker is Dylan Troutman (6-0, 210).

### ★ HARRISBURG, PA (7-3)

With 18 starters returning, including nine on each side of the ball, Coach George Chaump is hoping for a healthy campaign. Last season's fortunes stalled when quarterback Nate Brown (6-4, 220) was sidelined with an injury. Besides Brown, other key offensive players should be wide receivers Carlos Smith (5-11, 185) and Lavar Burhanan (6-1, 195), plus third year starting lineman Derick Brown (6-4, 280). The defense is anchored by linebackers Xavier Hunter (6-0, 220) and safety Zach Rankle (6-2, 205), a transfer from Oregon who doubles as a wideout.

### ★ BYRNES, DUNCAN, SC (15-0)

The Rebels return nine starters from a team that won a fourth consecutive state 4A Division II title and outscored opponents 777-154. The leader of the pack is quarterback and Clemson recruit Will Korn (6-2, 200), who passed for a state record 4,164 yards and 53 TDs last season. Other veterans include linebacker Stanley Hunter, the team's top tackler last season, plus offensive linemen Chad Diehl, defensive end Jamison Watson, defensive backs T.J. Jones and Dennis Rector, linebacker Albert Lemus, placekicker Cam Miller and punter Brandon Branch. Promising newcomers are running back Deonte Gist, wide receiver Randall Hawkins and junior Colby Conner.

### ★ SUMMERTON, SC (12-3)

The nation's winningest prep coach, John McKissick, will turn 80 this year and enters his

53rd season with 531 wins and 10 state titles. With 13 starters back from a state Class 4A-Big 16 runner-up team, this year's Summerville squad could add to McKissick's resume. A key returnee is two-time All-State wideout A.J. Green, the reigning EA Sports National Sophomore of the Year (75 passes, 1,416 yards last season). Other touted juniors include QB Reid McCoium, offensive lineman Richard Spain and DB Daven Ellington. Two massive offensive linemen top the seniors—David Richmond (6-4, 255) and Andrew Tucker (6-7, 275).

### ★ RAVENWOOD, BRENTWOOD, TN (14-1)

The Raptors won the state Class 5A title and return 11 starters from that team. The new quarterback will be junior Michael Becker (6-1, 180), last year's regular free safety. Offensive veterans back include three huge offensive linemen in tackles Joe Thompson (6-6, 285) and Garrett Snoeyenbos (6-5, 270), plus center Trevor Witherspoon (6-3, 260), running back Corey Laidlaw (5-11, 170) and wide receivers Michael Ayers (6-0, 170) and Jonathon Emkes (6-1, 185). Defensive stalwarts returning include end Isaiah Williams (6-2, 190), linebackers Adam Presley (6-0, 175) and Paul Cleckner (6-1, 215) and back Scott Ford (5-7, 160).

### ★ CARROLL, SOUTHLAKE, TX (16-0)

The Dragons have won 63 of their last 64 games and three of the last four state Class 5A-II titles, but face a rebuilding situation this season. Carroll returns only two offensive starters in juniors Tré Newton (6-2, 190), son of ex-Dallas Cowboy Nate Newton, and Riley Dodge (6-0, 180), son of Coach Todd Dodge. Newton rushed for 1,375 yards and 14 TDs last season. Dodge may be moved to QB after previously playing receiver and running back. He passed for 750 yards, rushed for 725 and added 25 catches for 350 yards as a sophomore. Five defensive starters return. They are middle linebacker Justin Padron (6-0, 215), end Kyle Russo (6-3, 245), safety Greg Lehane (5-10, 180) and cornerbacks Anius Ford (5-10, 175) and Anthony Ford (5-10, 175).

### ★ LUFKIN, TX (14-1)

Lufkin's only losses the last two years were to national champion Southlake. The Panthers return 10 three-year regulars among 14 starters. Quarterback Jeremy Claybon will throw to wide receivers Dez Bryant and Ralph Thomas. Defensive veterans include CB DanQuan Landry (5-9, 165), LB Joe Jackson (6-0, 180), DE A.J. Person (6-1, 230) and linemen Randall Murphy (6-0, 245). All-State kicker/punter Jamie Fernandez also returns.

### ★ MORGANTOWN, WV (14-0)

The Mohicans are well armed to seek a third straight Class 3A title. Eight offensive and six defensive starters are among 38 lettermen returning. Three-year starting QB Charlie Russell (6-4, 225) is a University of West Virginia recruit. He has 3,500 passing yards and 40 TDs in his career. Two other All-State picks are back in TE/DE Junius Lewis (6-2, 265) and two-way back Derek Long (6-1, 170). Interior linemen include Bryan Petetto (6-2, 275) and Dustin Lauderlich (6-4, 285). Veteran receivers are J.T. Lewis (6-4, 185) and Andrew Saab (6-2, 170). Other defensive veterans are LB Andrew Garcia (6-0, 200) and backs Mike Digman (6-0, 175) and Josh Davis (5-9, 165).

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

## PASSING EFFICIENCY (MINIMUM OF 15 ATTEMPTS PER GAME)

	YEAR	NAME	TEAM	ATTEMPTS	COMPLETIONS	PCT.	YARDS	TDS	INTS	RATING		
Rudy Carpenter, Arizona State	FR	9	228	156	68.42	2	88	2273	9.97	17	7.46	175.0
Brian Brohm, Louisville	SO	0	301	207	68.77	5	166	2883	9.58	19	6.31	166.7
Vince Young, Texas	JR	13	325	212	65.23	10	3.08	3036	9.34	26	8.00	163.9
Troy Smith, Ohio State	SR	11	237	149	62.87	4	1.69	2282	9.63	16	6.75	162.7
Drew Olson, UCLA	SR	12	378	242	64.02	6	1.59	3198	8.46	34	8.99	161.6
Phil Ironiak, Northern Illinois	JR	9	238	168	70.59	8	3.36	2001	8.41	8	7.56	159.4
Brady Quinn, Notre Dame	JR	12	450	292	64.89	7	1.56	3919	8.71	32	7.11	158.4
Matt Leinart, USC	SR	13	431	283	65.66	8	1.86	3815	8.85	28	6.50	157.7
Colt Brennan, Hawaii	SD	12	515	350	67.96	13	2.52	4301	8.35	35	6.80	155.5
Drew Stanton, Michigan State	JR	11	354	236	66.67	12	3.39	3072	8.69	22	6.21	153.4
Brian Johnson, Utah	SD	10	330	210	61.84	7	2.12	2892	8.76	18	5.45	151.0
Omar Jacobs, Bowling Green	JR	9	32	195	60.75	7	2.18	2590	8.07	26	8.10	150.9
John Stocco, Wisconsin	JR	13	328	197	60.06	9	2.74	2920	8.90	21	6.40	150.5
Justin Holland, Colorado State	SR	12	369	235	63.69	15	4.07	3185	8.63	23	6.23	148.6
Cody Hedges, Texas Tech	SR	12	531	353	66.48	12	2.26	4238	7.98	31	5.84	148.3
D.J. Shockley, Georgia	SR	12	310	173	55.81	5	1.61	2588	8.35	24	7.74	148.3
Ryan Han, Rutgers	SR	10	255	155	60.78	8	3.14	2125	8.37	18	7.06	148.1
Paul Plummer, Fresno State	SR	13	416	265	63.70	5	3.61	3335	8.02	30	7.21	147.6
Bruce Gradkowski, Toledo	SR	11	332	207	62.35	12	3.61	2469	7.44	29	8.73	146.4
Drew Tate, Iowa	JR	12	352	219	62.22	7	1.99	2828	8.03	22	6.25	146.4
Bryan Cipriano, Minnesota	JR	11	297	176	59.26	9	3.03	2530	8.52	19	6.40	145.9
Darrell Hackney, UAB	SR	11	386	242	62.69	12	3.11	3180	8.24	22	5.70	144.5
Marcus Vick, Virginia Tech	JR	13	289	177	61.25	10	3.46	2393	8.28	17	5.88	143.3
Pam Smith, Tulsa	SO	13	364	227	62.36	6	1.65	2835	7.79	20	5.49	142.6
Jordan Palmer, UTEP	JR	12	434	258	59.45	19	4.38	3503	8.07	29	6.68	140.5
Alex Brink, Washington State	SO	11	358	205	57.26	13	3.63	2891	8.08	24	6.70	140.0

## TOTAL OFFENSE

	YEAR	NAME	TEAM	RUSHING	PASSING	TOTAL OFFENSE
Colt Brennan, Hawaii	SD	12	99	371	217	514
Cody Hedges, Texas Tech	SR	12	109	496	305	191
Brett Basanez, Northwestern	SR	12	113	550	127	423
Brian Johnson, Utah	SO	10	152	690	212	478
Brady Quinn, Notre Dame	JR	12	70	245	155	90
Vince Young, Texas	JR	13	155	1186	136	1050
John Beck, Brigham Young	JR	12	73	242	181	61
Drew Stanton, Michigan State	JR	11	121	520	182	338
Brad Smith, Missouri	SR	12	229	1457	156	1301
Jay Cutler, Vanderbilt	SR	11	106	443	228	215
Darrell Hackney, UAB	SR	11	51	187	82	105
Matt Leinart, USC	SR	13	51	157	121	36
Omar Jacobs, Bowling Green	JR	9	40	154	92	62
Kent Smith, Central Michigan	SR	11	157	684	241	443
Kevin Kolb, Houston	JR	12	104	421	221	200
Jordan Palmer, JTEP	R	12	56	152	202	50
Brian Brohm, Louisville	SD	10	41	96	132	36
Josh Beets, Miami (Ohio)	SR	11	44	104	165	61
Alex Brink, Washington State	SD	11	56	244	138	106
James Pinkney, East Carolina	JR	1	95	378	185	193
Jeff Rose, Nevada	SR	12	119	470	226	244
Luke Getsy, Akron	IR	13	56	130	159	29
Michael Robinson, Penn State	SR	12	163	932	126	806
Troy Smith, Ohio State	SR	11	136	722	111	611
Reggie McNeal, Texas A&M	SR	10	96	780	116	664
Drew Olson, JCLA	SR	12	50	100	148	-48

## ALL-PURPOSE RUNNING

	YEAR	NAME	TEAM	RUSHING	PASSING	TOTAL OFFENSE
Reggie Bush, USC	JR	13	1740	478	179	493
Garnett Wolfe, Northern Illinois	JR	9	1580	222	0	0
Jerome Harrison, Washington State	SR	11	1900	206	0	7
DeAngelo Williams, Memphis	SR	11	1964	78	0	33
Rafael Little, Kentucky	SO	11	1045	449	355	133
Brian Calhoun, Wisconsin	JR	13	1636	571	0	0
Domeik Nixon, Akron	SR	13	24	1210	200	705
Brandon Williams, Wisconsin	SR	13	47	1095	380	616
Marshawn Lynch, California	SO	10	1246	125	0	271
Jevon Bouknight, Wyoming	SR	11	94	1	16	555
Laurence Maroney, Minnesota	JR	11	1464	170	0	96
Tyrell Sutton, Northwestern	FR	12	1474	396	0	0
Maurice Drew, JCLA	JR	12	914	453	427	69
Don'tell Moore, New Mexico	SR	11	1298	371	0	0
Chris Barclay, Wake Forest	SR	10	1127	159	0	222
Yvenson Bernard, Oregon State	SO	11	1321	316	0	0
Scott Wesley, Army	SR	11	528	46	218	833
Albert Young, Iowa	SD	12	1334	244	0	182
Tony Penyoen, Utah State	JR	10	44	241	0	675
Donen Bryant, Purdue	SO	11	101	960	0	500
Andre Hall, South Florida	SR	12	1374	321	0	0
Mike Hass, Oregon State	SR	11	18	1532	0	0
Michael Bush, Louisville	JR	10	1143	253	0	0
Ted Ginn Jr., Ohio State	SO	12	83	803	250	532
Ryne Robinson, Miami (Ohio)	JR	11	108	1119	301	0
Kenny Robinson, Utah State	SO	11	91	661	270	498

## RECEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	NAME	TEAM	RECEPTS	YDS.	TD'S	PER G.
Greg Jennings, Western Michigan	SR	11	98	1259	14	8.91	
Mike Hass, Oregon State	SR	11	90	1532	6	8.18	
Jeffrey Webb, San Diego State	SR	12	92	1109	10	7.67	
Aundrea Allison, East Carolina	SR	11	83	1024	7	7.55	
Davone Bess, Hawaii	FR	12	89	1124	14	7.42	
Martin Nance, Miami (Ohio)	SR	11	81	1107	14	7.36	
Chad Jackson, Florida	JR	12	88	900	9	7.33	
Dancon Bryant, Purdue	SO	11	80	960	4	7.27	
Earl Bennett, Vanderbilt	FR	11	79	876	9	7.18	
David Anderson, Colorado State	SR	12	86	1221	8	7.17	
Ryan Grice-Mullen, Hawaii	FR	12	85	1228	12	7.08	
Jovan Bouknight, Wyoming	SR	11	77	1116	12	7.00	
Dwayne Jarrett, USC	SO	13	91	1274	16	7.00	
Jason Avant, Michigan	SR	12	82	1007	8	6.83	
Eric Deslauriers, Eastern Michigan	JR	11	75	874	8	6.82	
Ryne Robinson, Miami (Ohio)	JR	11	75	1119	8	6.82	
Charles Sharon, Bowling Green	SR	11	74	1028	6	6.73	

## INTERCEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	NAME	TEAM	INTS	PER G.
Aaron Gipson, Oregon	SR	12	7	117	1
Dion Byrum, Ohio	SR	11	6	153	2
Julani Jordan, Bowling Green	SR	11	6	66	0
Anthony Smith, Syracuse	SR	11	6	73	0
Marcus Hamilton, Virginia	JR	12	6	28	0
Chaz Williams, La.-Monroe	SO	10	5	138	1
Alonzo Zemaitis, Penn State	SR	12	5	35	0
Nick Graham, Tulsa	JR	13	6	66	0
Gabriel Fulbright, New Mexico	SR	11	5	77	0
C.J. Wilson, Baylor	JR	11	5	54	.45

## SCORING

	YEAR	NAME	TEAM	PT'S	PER G.
Michael Bush, Louisville	JR	10	24	0	0
JenDale White, USC	JR	13	26	0	0
Steve Slaton, West Virginia	FR	10	19	0	0
Garrett Wolfe, Northern Illinois	JR	9	17	0	0
Brian Calhoun, Wisconsin	JR	13	24	0	0
Taurean Henderson, Texas Tech	SR	12	22	0	0
DeAngelo Williams, Memphis	SR	11	9	0	0
Maurice Drew, JCLA	JR	12	20	0	0
Gary Russell, Minnesota	SO	12	19	0	0
Don'tell Moore, New Mexico	SR	11	17	0	0
Jerome Harman, Washington State	SR	11	17	0	0
Paul Martinez, Oregon	JR	9	6	26	19
Alexis Serna, Oregon State	SO	11	0	32	23
Josh Huston, Ohio State	SR	12	0	44	22
Todd Soderquist, Miami (Ohio)	SR	11	0	43	19
Tyrell Sutton, Northwestern	FR	12	18	0	0
Mario Danelo, JSC	SO	13	0	83	11
Darren McClellan, Southern Miss	JR	12	0	38	23
Jed Dean, Clemson	JR	12	0	34	24
Reggie Bush, USC	JR	13	19	0	0
Brandon Cutro, Georgia	SO	13	0	45	23
Arthur Carmody, Louisville	SO	12	0	63	14

## RUSHING

	YEAR	NAME	TEAM	PT'S	PER G.
DeAngelo Williams, Memphis	SR	11	310	1964	6.34
Garnett Wolfe, Northern Illinois	SR	12	242	1580	6.53
Jerome Harrison, Washington State	SR	11	308	1900	6.17
Garrett Wolfe, Northern Illinois	JR	13	200	1740	8.70
Reggie Bush, JSC	JR	11	281	1464	5.21
Laurence Maroney, Minnesota	JR	13	281	1464	5.21
Brian Calhoun, Wisconsin	JR	13	348	1636	4.70
Marshawn Lynch, California	SO	10	196	1246	6.36
Tyrell Sutton, Northwestern	FR	12	250	1474	5.90
Yvenson Bernard, Oregon State	SO	11	299	1321	4.42
Don'tell Moore, New Mexico	SR	11	275	1298	4.72
B.J. Mitchell, Nevada	SR	12	261	1309	5.36
Andre Hall, South Florida	SR	12	270		

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

## PUNT RETURNS (MINIMUM 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

Maurice Drew, JCLA	JR	15	427	3	28.47
Quinton Jones, Boise State	JR	22	459	3	20.86
Terrence Munn, Nebraska	SO	16	293	0	18.31
Willie Reid, Florida State	SR	31	541	3	17.45
Rafael Little, Kentucky	SO	21	355	0	16.90
Joe Burnett, UCF	FR	28	463	2	16.54
Terry Richardson, Arizona State	JR	22	337	2	15.32
Cory Rodgers, TCU	JR	19	290	0	15.26
Timi Nixon, California	JR	24	357	1	14.88
Aaron Ross, Texas	JR	34	500	2	14.71
Brandon Williams, Wisconsin	SR	26	380	2	14.62
Devin Hester, Miami (Fla.)	IR	22	312	1	14.18
Tom Zbikowski, Notre Dame	JR	27	379	2	14.04
Thomas Flowers, Georgia	SO	32	438		13.69
Skyler Green, LSU	SR	27	359	1	13.30
Leodus McKinley, Troy	SO	33	417	1	12.64
Adam Jennings, Fresno State	SR	22	272	0	12.36
Steve Breaston, Michigan	SR	29	356	0	12.28
Ryne Robinson, Miami (Ohio)	JR	26	301	1	11.58
Darrelle Revis, Pittsburgh	SO	28	324	1	11.57

## PUNTING (MINIMUM 3.6 PUNTS PER GAME)

Ryan Plackemeyer, Wake Forest	SR	1	67	3165	47.24
Sam Koch, Nebraska	SR	12	71	3302	46.51
Daniel Sepulveda, Baylor	JR	11	62	2863	46.18
Jim Kaylor, Colorado State	SO	12	53	2400	45.28
John Torp, Colorado	SR	13	80	3613	45.16
Kody Bliss, Auburn	JR	12	44	1975	44.89
Luke Johnson, Southern Miss	SR	12	53	2378	44.87
Kenneth DeBauche, Wisconsin	SO	13	57	2555	44.82
Michael Hughes, San Diego State	SO	12	67	3003	44.82
Zen Stelly Lu, Moreno	SR	11	59	2634	44.64
Michael Gibson, Memphis	JR	12	59	2632	44.61
Chris Miller, Bill State	FR	11	68	2977	43.78
Adam Podlesh, Maryland	JR	11	44	1918	43.59
Justin Brantly, Texas A&M	FR	11	46	1989	43.24
Nic Schmitt, Virginia Tech	JR	13	52	2244	43.15
Sam Paulette, Oregon State	SR	1	56	2406	42.96
Kyle Tucker, Kansas	SO	12	66	2832	42.91
Gordon Ely-Kelso, Georgia	JR	13	57	2443	42.86

## FIELD GOALS

Paul Martinez, Oregon	JR	9	24	9	792	2-3
Alexis Sevier, Oregon State	SO	11	28	23	821	2-9
Zad Dean, Clemson	JR	12	33	24	774	2-0
Darren McClellan, Southern Miss	JR	12	28	23	821	1-2
Josh Huston, Ohio State	SR	12	28	22	786	1-83
Stephen Gotsikowski, Memphis	SR	12	25	22	880	1-83
Brandon Coulter, Georgia	SO	13	29	23	793	1-77
Connor Hughes, Virginia	SR	12	24	21	675	1-75
Todd Soderquist, Miami (Ohio)	SR	11	27	19	704	1-73
Sam Swank, Wake Forest	FR	11	24	19	792	1-73
Mason Crosby, Colorado	JR	13	29	22	759	1-69
Jeremy Ito, Rutgers	SO	12	27	20	741	1-67
Danny Horwadel, Louisiana Tech	SO	11	26	18	692	1-64
Chris McMurry, SMU	SR	1	22	18	818	1-64
Andrew Welllock, Eastern Michigan	JR	11	25	18	720	1-64
Iordan Condou, Nebraska	FR	12	23	9	826	1-58
Garrett Rivas, Michigan	JR	12	26	19	731	1-58
Josh Cummings, Pittsburgh	SR	9	19	14	.737	1-56

## KICKOFF RETURNS (MINIMUM 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

Jonathan Stewart, Oregon	FR	12	404	2	33.67
Felix Jones, Arkansas	FB	17	543	1	31.94
Cory Rodgers, TCU	JR	17	515	2	30.29
Ted Gunn Jr., Ohio State	SO	18	532	1	29.56
Tony Pennyman, Utah State	JR	23	675	2	29.35
Darrell Blackman, N.C. State	SO	20	582	0	29.10
Adam Jennings, Fresno State	SR	20	580	0	29.00
Steve Breaston, Michigan	SR	23	646	1	28.09
Brandon Williams, Wisconsin	SR	22	616	0	28.00
Lee Marks, Boise State	SR	17	474	1	27.88
Jevon Bouknight, Wyoming	SR	20	555	0	27.75
Patrick Jackson, Louisiana Tech	FR	7	471	0	27.71
Jesse Henderson, SMU	FR	24	663	1	27.63
Shaun Rochon, Baylor	SR	20	548	1	27.40
T.J. Rushing, Stanford	SR	21	575	2	27.38
Terry Richardson, Arizona State	JR	23	629	0	27.35
Trestin George, San Jose State	SR	16	436	1	27.25
Scott Mayle, Ohio	JR	21	572	1	27.24

## TEAM LEADERS

## RUSHING OFFENSE

Navy	12	671	3824	5.70	45	318.67
Texas	13	605	3574	5.91	55	274.92
Minnesota	12	610	3277	5.37	34	273.08
West Virginia	12	625	3269	5.23	34	272.42
Memphis	12	597	3215	5.39	28	267.92
LSC	13	525	3380	6.44	51	260.00
La-Lafayette	11	531	2797	5.27	34	254.27
Air Force	11	586	2712	4.61	28	246.55
California	12	483	2823	5.84	27	235.25
Texas A&M	11	452	2584	5.72	24	234.91
Rice	11	600	2576	4.29	22	234.18
Arkansas	11	481	2386	4.96	19	216.91
Toledo	12	490	2602	5.31	20	216.83
Penn State	12	503	2553	5.08	29	212.75
Washington St.	11	440	2332	5.30	20	212.00
Northern Illinois	12	478	2480	5.19	28	206.67
Missouri	12	512	2463	4.81	26	205.25
South Florida	12	579	2436	4.23	23	203.00

## YARDAGE LEADERS

	GA WED	GA SAT	LOST	WON	LOSS	MARGIN/G
TCU	14	26	40	8	1	9
USC	16	22	38	7	10	17
Florida	15	16	31	6	2	13
Tulsa	14	22	36	10	8	18
Louisiana Tech	15	16	31	8	10	11
Miami (Ohio)	15	20	35	8	14	22
Iowa State	13	22	35	11	10	21
Southern Miss	19	15	34	7	13	20
West Virginia	14	17	31	10	7	12
Oregon	9	23	32	9	10	19
Wisconsin	11	16	27	5	9	4
UCF	13	19	32	11	9	20
Eastern Michigan	9	11	20	4	6	0
Georgia	13	16	29	1	7	18
Notre Dame	11	13	24	6	8	14
Clemson	10	14	24	5	10	15
Northwestern	10	20	30	12	9	21
Texas Tech	16	12	28	7	2	19

## RUSHING DEFENSE

Ohio State	12	375	881	2.35	12	73.4
Tennessee	11	356	907	2.55	8	82.5
Kansas	12	414	999	2.41	8	83.3
Oklahoma	12	392	987	2.77	11	90.6
Boston College	12	420	1090	2.60	6	90.8
LSU	13	402	1190	2.96	8	91.5
Penn State	12	442	1116	2.52	12	93.0
Virginia Tech	13	402	1116	3.02	6	93.4
Alabama	12	361	1132	3.14	5	94.3
Florida	12	373	1139	3.05	14	94.9
Colorado	13	460	1303	2.83	18	100.2
Iowa State	12	414	1232	2.98	10	102.7
Georgia Tech	12	409	1247	3.05	9	103.9
N.C. State	12	461	1286	2.79	11	107.2
Baylor	13	421	1403	3.33	9	107.9
TCU	12	456	1295	2.84	12	107.9
Oregon State	11	385	1188	3.09	13	108.0
Florida State	13	492	1409	2.86	17	108.4

## PASSING OFFENSE

Texas Tech	12	588	391	7.65	56	4666
Hawaii	12	578	379	7.5	65.5	4613
Arizona State	12	493	312	1	63.29	4481
Notre Dame	12	454	294	8	64.76	3963
USC	13	481	312	10	64.86	4152
Brigham Young	12	516	332	13	64.34	3721
Northwestern	12	512	320	9	62.50	3681
Drexell	12	482	303	10	62.86	3548
UTEP	12	458	268	20	58.52	3607
Oregon State	11	459	267	23	58.71	3261
Michigan State	11	381	252	13	66.14	3750
Utah	12	415	258	10	62.17	3544
Louisville	12	376	246	10	65.43	3523
UAB	11	389	245	12	62.98	3213
Miami (Ohio)	11	445	254	14	57.08	3208
Colorado State	12	402	248	15	61.69	3436
Bowling Green	11	411	249	11	60.58	3123
Florida St.	13	526	303	79	57.60	3674

## TOTAL OFFENSE

USC	13	1006	7537	7.49	87	579.77
Arizona State	12	940	6229	6.63	59	519.08
Texas	13	941	6657	7.07	88	512.08
LSD	13	431	204	4.73	33	2.32
Michigan State	12	974	6004	6.16	51	500.33
Michigan State	11	834	5470	6.56	50	497.27
Texas Tech	12	896	5950	6.64	62	495.83
Minnesota	12	933	5937	6.36	56	494.75
Washington State	11	821	5382	6.56	47	489.27
Louisville	12	848	5785	6.82	69	482.08
Notre Dame	12	945	5728	6.06	58	472.33
Hawaii	12	857	5			

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

## PASSING EFFICIENCY

	YEAR	TEAM	ATTEMPTS	COMPS	PCT%	YARDS	TDS	INTS	Avg Yd.	RATING
Bruce Eugene, Grambling	SR	12	456	254	55.70	1,32	4360	956	56	12.28
Josh Johnson, San Diego	SO	12	371	208	55.70	2,16	3256	878	36	9.70
Ricky Santos, New Hampshire	SO	13	429	216	50.16	2,10	3797	885	39	9.09
Erik Meyer, Eastern Washington	SR	12	410	269	65.61	5	1,22	4003	926	30
Eric Sanders, Northern Iowa	SO	13	312	213	68.27	1,60	2929	939	23	7.37
Tavaris Jackson, Alabama State	SR	11	320	196	60.94	1,56	2940	919	29	9.06
Kevin Hoyng, Dayton	JR	10	193	114	59.07	2,59	1989	1031	14	7.25
Justin Rascati, James Madison	JR	11	214	149	67.00	2,34	1822	851	17	7.94
Connor Josier, Drake	SR	10	186	111	59.68	5	2,69	1580	849	19
Steve Lafave, Western Illinois	JR	11	298	201	67.45	2,68	2586	868	19	6.38
Luke Dorne, Illinois State	SD	11	332	214	64.46	1,11	3,61	2930	883	22
Ricke Williams, Appalachian State	SR	15	338	211	62.43	4	1,18	2809	831	20
Joei Sambou, Southern Illinois	SR	13	330	210	63.64	1,11	2,73	2695	817	22
Anton Carlson, Hofstra	JR	10	361	238	65.93	10	2,77	3020	837	18
Cleveland McCoy, South Carolina State	SR	11	191	111	56.54	6	3,14	1692	886	13
Jacob Phillips, William & Mary	SO	10	192	123	64.06	7	3,65	1564	815	12
Ingle Martin, Furman	SR	14	349	212	60.74	13	3,72	2959	848	5
Joseph Lewis, Southern University	JR	9	342	217	63.45	7	2,05	2496	730	19
Justin Haddix, Western Kentucky	JR	11	230	131	56.96	10	4,35	1892	823	15
Anes Nelson, Mississippi Valley	JR	11	350	211	57.14	9	2,57	2942	843	17
Barris Nealy, Texas State	SB	14	362	208	57.30	9	2,48	2875	792	21
Liam Coad, Massachusetts	SD	10	274	175	63.87	7	2,55	2175	794	10
Tom Zettl, Youngstown State	SD	11	258	154	59.00	1,11	2,33	1949	755	14
Collin Drafts, Charleston Southern	JR	11	356	212	59.00	9	2,53	2594	729	18
Sean Schaefer, Towson	FIR	11	365	226	61.92	17	4,66	2772	759	20
Joseph DiGiacomo, Brown	JR	10	23	121	52.38	1,11	3,46	1800	779	11

## TOTAL OFFENSE

	YEAR	TEAM	RUSHING	PASSING	TOTAL DEFENSE			
	YEAR	TEAM	YDS	ATTEMPTS	PLAYS	YDS	TDS	YDG
Bruce Eugene, Grambling	SR	12	80	331	174	157	456	4360
Erik Meyer, Eastern Washington	SR	12	92	495	274	221	410	4003
Ricky Santos, New Hampshire	SO	13	119	159	499	429	3797	548
Trey Willie, Southeastern La.	SR	10	133	687	238	449	2777	537
Josh Johnson, San Diego	SD	12	86	454	75	379	371	3256
John Scaria, Wagner	SR	11	58	132	151	19	469	3321
Anton Carlson, Hofstra	JR	10	74	132	185	53	361	3020
Trevis Luey, Montana State	SR	11	133	761	150	611	2629	521
Tavaris Jackson, Alabama State	SR	11	103	482	197	159	320	2940
Aries Nelson, Mississippi Valley	JR	11	113	472	218	254	2892	463
Anthony Doris, St. Francis (Pa.)	JR	10	91	91	121	30	409	2895
Joseph Lewis, Southern University	JR	9	91	236	52	342	2496	433
Barris Nealy, Texas State	SR	14	159	1215	158	1057	363	2875
Luke Dorne, Illinois State	SD	11	87	271	145	126	332	2930
Josh Greco, Eastern Kentucky	SD	11	87	306	123	183	367	2861
Frank Jankowski, Villanova	SD	11	54	82	192	110	421	3058
Michael Jump, La Salle	SD	10	54	181	21	372	2607	426
Blayne Baggett, Indiana State	SR	11	74	265	192	73	473	2741
Kevin Hoyng, Dayton	JR	10	114	716	158	558	193	1989
Collin Drafts, Charleston Southern	JR	11	122	370	192	178	356	2594
Brian Boland, Monmouth	JR	10	47	285	101	184	323	2334
Sean Schaefer, Towson	FIR	11	65	155	199	14	365	2772
Ricke Williams, Appalachian State	SR	15	1012	76	936	338	2809	502
Jefferson Adcock, Samford	JR	11	123	512	147	365	366	2338
Jeff Mroz, Yale	SR	10	28	51	36	36	364	2484
Liam O'Hagan, Harvard	SD	10	127	584	141	443	262	2005

## ALL PURPOSE RUNNING

	YEAR	TEAM	RUSHING	PASSING	TOTAL DEFENSE			
	YEAR	TEAM	YDS	ATTEMPTS	PLAYS	YDS	TDS	YDG
Steve Silva, Holy Cross	SR	10	912	364	395	462	203	7.54
Clay Green, Jacksonville State	JR	11	352	134	0	562	264	7.76
Nick Hartigan, Brown	SR	10	1727	74	0	0	324	5.56
Arkee Whittlock, Southern Illinois	JR	12	1457	190	0	408	313	6.57
Tyjuan Hassey, Robert Morris	SR	10	51	895	133	615	81	20.96
Jeff Horton, Valparaiso	JR	11	1358	297	119	26	305	5.90
Joe Rubin, Portland State	SR	11	1702	79	0	0	360	4.95
Scott Phaydavong, Drake	SO	10	1550	68	0	0	212	7.63
Clinton Dawson, Harvard	JR	10	1139	336	0	139	296	5.45
Omar Cuff, Delaware	SO	11	1205	414	0	0	290	5.58
Todd Harris, St. Francis (Pa.)	JR	11	303	0	0	257	259	6.22
Donald Chapman, Tenn. Martin	SO	11	1396	215	0	0	326	4.94
Eric Kimble, Eastern Washington	SR	12	1419	186	109	114	15.28	145.17
Charlie Spiller, Alcorn State	JR	11	34	794	0	768	72	22.06
James Noble, Cal Poly	FR	11	1578	2	0	0	224	7.05
Martin Gibson, Villanova	SR	11	796	93	0	646	79	7.52
Miles Austin, Monmouth	SR	8	54	1004	29	16	60	18.38
Kevin Richardson, Appalachian State	SO	15	1433	558	0	47	321	6.35
Travis Glasford, Western Illinois	SR	11	1052	432	0	0	263	5.64
Jordan Scott, Colgate	FR	11	1364	116	0	0	330	4.48
Laurn Robinson, Illinois State	JR	11	0	1465	0	0	86	17.03
Rondreka Darby, South Carolina State	JR	11	116	629	99	610	65	22.37
Michael Caputo, St. Francis (Pa.)	JR	11	111	1433	0	0	92	15.58
Dante Ross, Bucknell	SR	11	845	0	195	393	249	5.76
Jeremy McCoy, Alcorn State	JR	9	1129	38	0	0	189	6.17
Jermaine Austin, Georgia Southern	SR	12	1546	4	0	0	234	6.62

## RECEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	TEAM	REC	REL	TD	1ST	10+	100+
Michael Caputo, St. Francis (Pa.)	JR	11	92	1433	12	8.36		
Laurn Robinson, Illinois State	JR	11	86	1465	12	7.82		
Luke Palko, St. Francis (Pa.)	JR	11	85	812	7	7.73		
J.J. Orlaw, Villanova	SR	11	83	878	7	7.55		
Eric Kimble, Eastern Washington	SR	12	87	1419	12	7.25		
Shaun Grover, Wagner	SR	11	78	1031	8	7.09		
Sam Logan, Indiana State	JR	11	77	849	8	7.00		
Devale Ellis, Hofstra	SR	11	74	943	11	6.73		
David Ball, New Hampshire	JR	13	87	1551	24	6.69		
Marques Colston, Hofstra	SR	11	70	975	5	6.36		
Ariel Gordon, Maine	JR	11	70	484	1	6.36		
Michael Sparks, Missouri State	SR	10	62	663	5	6.20		
Henry Tolbert, Grambling	SR	12	74	1391	19	6.17		
Miles Austin, Monmouth	SR	8	49	1004	11	6.13		
Ashley Wright, Yale	JR	10	61	795	11	6.10		
Adam Hanula, San Diego	JR	12	73	1000	11	6.08		
Josh Taylor, Southeastern La.	SR	8	48	606	5	6.00		

## SCORING

	YEAR	TEAM	PT	TD	FG	1ST	10+	100+
Nick Hartigan, Brown	SR	10	21	0	0	126	12.60	
David Ball, New Hampshire	JR	13	24	0	0	144	11.08	
Jayson Foster, Georgia Southern	SO	12	21	0	0	126	10.50	
Henry Tolbert, Grambling	SR	12	20	0	0	120	10.50	
Omar Cuff, Delaware	SO	11	18	0	0	108	9.82	
Eric Roth, Lehigh	SR	11	18	0	0	108	9.82	
Steve Morgan, Brown	SD	10	0	44	18	98	9.80	
Alonzo Coleman, Hampton	JR	12	19	0	0	114	9.50	
Oboza Ebisoya, Marist	SO	11	17	0	0	102	9.27	
Joe Rubin, Portland State	SR	11	17	0	0	102	9.27	
Miles Austin, Monmouth	SR	8	12	0	0	72	9.00	
Steve Silva, Holy Cross	SR	10	15	0	0	90	9.00	
Jerome Felton, Furman	SD	14	20	0	0	124	8.86	
Donald Chapman, Tenn. Martin	SD	11	16	0	0	96	8.73	
James Noble, Cal Poly	FR	11	16	0	0	96	8.73	
Andrew Paterin, Hampton	JR	12	20	0	0	104	8.67	
Clifton Dawson, Harvard	JR	10	14	0	0	86	8.60	
Ed Pricolo, Sacred Heart	SR	10	14	0	0	84	8.40	
Kevin Richardson, Appalachian State	SO	15	21	0	0	126	8.40	
Ken Cornst, Idaho State	FR	11	15	0	0	90	8.18	
Jonathan Hurt, Lafayette	JR	12	16	0	0	96	8.00	
Chris James, Western Kentucky	SO	11	0	42	15	87	7.91	

## RUSHING

	YEAR	TEAM	CAR	TDS	AVG	1ST	10+	100+
Nick Hartigan, Brown	SR	10	314	1727	5.50	11	172	70
Scott Phaydavong, Drake	SO	10	204	1550	7.60	11	155	60
Joe Rubin, Portland State	SR</td							

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

JUNIOR RETURNS (MINIMUM 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

	YEAR	RET.	YDS.	Avg.
Nick Feldman, Morehead State	SO	27	592	21.86
James Vernon, Southern University	SR	19	355	18.68
Steve Silva, Holy Cross	SR	22	395	17.95
Kory Alston, Gardner-Webb	JR	15	247	16.47
Roosevelt Kiser, Florida A&M	JR	14	239	16.36
Dennis Mitchell, Western Kentucky	SR	15	242	16.13
Brendan Ferrigno, Portland State	JR	17	259	15.24
Michael Boyle, New Hampshire	FR	27	411	15.22
Cortland Finnegan, Samford	SR	14	212	15.14
Craig Turner, Southern Illinois	SO	21	308	14.67
Brandon Stanford, Lafayette	SR	30	438	14.60
Marquay McDaniel, Hampton	SR	49	714	14.57
Landry Carter, Grambling	SO	16	217	13.56
Steven Whitehead, McNeese State	SO	19	255	13.42
Tuff Harris, Montana	SR	25	316	12.64
Toby Zeigler, Northwestern State	SR	15	182	12.13
Nick Rude, Dayton	JR	37	448	12.11
Brandon Markey, Brown	IR	27	325	12.04
Jamaal Jackson, Southeastern La.	SR	15	177	11.80
Eric Kimble, Eastern Washington	SR	16	186	11.63

PUNTING (MINIMUM 3.6 PUNTS PER GAME)

	YEAR	SPS	NO.	YDS.	Avg.
Wesley Taylor, Florida A&M	SO	11	59	2707	45.88
Eric Contos, Delaware State	SR	11	65	2876	44.25
Christian Koegel, Massachusetts	JR	11	49	2108	43.02
Rhian Madrid, Northern Arizona	JR	11	61	2623	43.00
David Simonhoff, Southeast Mo. St.	JR	11	63	2699	42.84
Ryan Feely, Jacksonville	SR	8	42	1787	42.55
Dominique Brown, N.C. A&T	SO	11	57	2417	42.40
Tim Chicone, Cal Poly	SO	13	64	2710	42.34
Ryan Hoffman, Illinois State	SR	10	41	1729	42.17
Jim Hall, Southeastern La.	JR	10	43	1800	41.86
Tim Mayse, Western Carolina	JR	9	49	2048	41.80
Ryan Horvath, Drake	SR	10	40	1667	41.68
Cameron Muro, Hampton	SR	12	54	2240	41.48
Derek Pearson, Central Conn. St.	SR	11	57	2351	41.25
Brandon Perkins, Southern Utah	SR	10	69	2842	41.19
Travis Luiy, Montana State	SR	11	43	1769	41.14
Tyson Johnson, Montana	JR	11	63	2585	41.03
Adam James, Villanova	SR	10	42	1702	40.52

## FIELD GOALS

	YEAR	FGA	FGM	FG%	FGA	FGM	FG%
Steve Morgan, Brown	SO	10	23	18	783	180	
Blake Bergeasey, McNeese State	FR	9	19	16	.842	1.78	
Andrew Paterni, Hampton	JR	12	30	20	.667	1.67	
Peter Gaertner, Delaware State	JR	10	21	16	.762	1.60	
Derek Gardner, Princeton	SR	10	18	16	.889	1.60	
Jaret Johnson, Idaho State	SR	11	19	17	.895	1.55	
Rob Zarilli, Hofstra	SO	11	19	17	.895	1.55	
Joseph Fore, Richmond	SR	11	20	16	.800	1.45	
Jeff Hastings, Montana State	JR	11	21	16	.762	1.45	
A.J. Weitsman, Cornell	SR	10	15	14	.933	1.40	
Chris James, Western Kentucky	SO	11	17	15	.882	1.36	
Josh Hoke, Coastal Carolina	JR	11	22	14	.634	1.27	
Wesley Taylor, Florida A&M	SO	11	25	14	.564	1.27	
Joseph Blanco, Mississippi Valley	SO	11	14	13	.929	1.18	
Joe Johnson, Weber State	SR	11	22	13	.591	1.18	
Miro Kesic, Northeastern	SR	11	19	13	.684	1.18	
Greg Kuehn, William & Mary	SR	11	22	13	.591	1.18	
Mario Sanchez, Prairie View	FR	11	21	13	.619	1.18	

KICKOFF RETURNS (MINIMUM 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

	YEAR	RET.	YDS.	Avg.
Ricky Williams, Bethune-Cookman	SR	21	659	21.38
Mike Malone, Western Carolina	SR	17	532	1.3129
Tyuan Massey, Robert Morris	SE	15	615	0.3075
Rondrekae Darby, South Carolina St.	JR	20	610	0.3050
Albert Turner, Southern University	JR	19	530	0.2789
Brandon Taylor, Missouri State	SR	15	414	0.2760
Kris Daniels, Sacramento State	JR	17	0	0.2573
Bernard McGee, Ark.-Pine Bluff	FB	15	0	0.2714
Charlie Spiller, Alcorn State	JR	28	760	2.714
Dwayne Ijames, Elon	SR	15	406	1.2707
David Freeman, Richmond	SR	20	532	0.2660
Larry Johnson, Lafayette	SR	21	558	0.2657
Nick Turner, Murray State	SR	25	658	1.2632
Rob Shulte, Montana	SD	23	601	0.2613
Geoff Bean, Colgate	JR	20	515	0.2575
Cleodius Williams, Duquesne	FR	12	306	0.2550
David Jiles, Monmouth	SR	21	533	0.2538
Duvaughn Flagler, Gardner-Webb	SD	20	507	0.2535

## TEAM LEADERS

## RUNNING OFFENSE

	YEAR	YDS.	Avg.	TD	YDS/G
Georgia Southern	12	768	6.04	50	386.75
Nicholls State	10	625	5.83	38	364.80
Rhode Island	11	681	5.15	31	318.55
Wofford	11	636	5.17	27	283.36
Dayton	10	503	5.16	38	259.40
Drake	10	448	5.74	29	257.00
Morehead State	12	601	5.12	35	256.50
Cornell	10	570	4.36	26	248.60
Bethune-Cookman	11	526	5.17	38	247.36
Furman	14	679	5.09	42	246.79
Hampton	12	562	5.09	32	238.42
South Carolina State	11	554	5.01	31	236.45
James Madison	11	486	5.21	30	234.45
Western Kentucky	11	494	5.24	25	228.55
Texas State	14	659	4.85	45	228.43
Brown	10	439	5.00	26	219.30
Jacksonville State	11	506	4.68	28	215.27
Jacksonville	8	376	4.52	16	212.50

## TURNOVER MARGIN

	GA NED	LOST	FUM. INT GAINED	FUM. INT	YARDAGE	YARDAGE	
New Hampshire	27	24	45	15	10	25	1.54
Eastern Illinois	21	20	41	14	31	22	1.50
Grambling	18	17	35	11	7	18	1.42
Central Conn. St.	14	15	29	10	6	16	1.18
South Carolina St.	19	8	27	8	6	14	1.18
Montana	12	18	30	9	8	17	1.08
Holy Cross	13	11	24	6	7	13	1.00
Jacksonville State	10	18	28	11	6	17	1.00
Portland State	11	14	25	5	9	14	1.00
Stony Brook	15	10	25	3	11	14	1.00
Youngstown State	8	18	26	8	8	16	.91
Davidson	9	19	28	5	14	19	.90
San Diego	10	15	25	7	8	15	.83
Dayton	7	15	22	9	5	14	.80
Stephen F. Austin	12	17	29	10	11	21	.73
William & Mary	8	19	27	10	9	19	.73
Nicholls State	10	12	22	12	3	15	.70

## RUSHING DEFENSE

	YDS.	PLATS	YDS.	Avg.	TD	YDS/G
Duquesne	10	370	725	1.96	6	72.5
Cornell	10	360	883	2.45	6	88.3
Harvard	10	344	917	2.67	12	91.7
Howard	11	397	1093	2.75	12	99.4
Alabama A&M	12	388	1233	3.18	10	102.8
Sacred Heart	10	360	1031	2.86	12	103.1
Mercy	10	315	1042	3.31	6	104.2
Lehigh	11	418	1148	2.75	14	104.4
James Madison	11	399	1175	2.99	12	105.8
Pennsylvania	10	381	1080	2.83	7	108.0
Albany (N.Y.)	11	410	1244	3.03	9	113.1
Western Kentucky	11	399	1244	3.12	18	113.1
Southern Illinois	13	453	1480	3.27	10	113.8
Cal Poly	12	523	1490	2.85	16	114.6
Delaware State	11	385	1523	2.69	15	117.5
Dayton	10	710	4707	6.63	57	470.70
Furman	14	1060	6578	6.21	64	469.86
Ga. Southern	12	860	5037	6.55	64	469.75
Alabama State	11	759	5073	6.68	47	461.18
Gardner-Webb	11	780	4851	5.58	51	441.00
Texas State	14	1037	6147	5.93	69	439.07
Morehead State	12	885	5195	5.87	55	432.92
Drake	10	656	4303	6.56	52	430.30
Hofstra	11	781	4728	6.05	41	429.82
Rhode Island	11	841	4681	5.57	40	425.55
Mississippi Valley	11	756	4657	6.16	46	423.36
Appalachian State	15	1001	6347	6.34	63	423.13
Western Illinois	13	801	4610	5.76	48	419.09

## PASS-EFFICIENCY DEFENSE

	ATT.	COMP.	PERC.	INT.	TD.	YDS.	YDS/G	TD. RATING
Duquesne	10	304	130	42.76	18	5.92	1334	4.39
Grambling	12	343	155	45.19	12	5.30	1635	4.77
Delaware State	11	284	126	44.37	16	5.63	1702	5.00
San Diego	12	328	164	50.00	15	4.57	1872	5.71
W. Carolina	9	232	113	48.71	15	4.77	1791	5.13
E. Kentucky	11	334	168	50.30	19	5.67	2093	5.17
Princeton	10	296	143	48.31	19	6.42	1819	6.15
Grambling	12	361	179	49.58	17	4.71	2186	6.06
Colgate	12	352	180	51.14	19	5.40	2129	6.05
Bethune-Cookman	11	321	149	46.42	10	3.12	1913	5.96
S.C. State	11	290	151	52.07	8	2.76	1626	5.61
Harvard	10	359	179	49.86	18	5.01	2189	6.10
Dayton	10	243	126	51.85	15	6.17	1526	6.28
E. Washington	12	441	222	50.34	20	2.72	2437	5.53
Eastern Illinois	12	467	256	54.82	20	4.28	2644	5.66
Weber State	11	338	157	46.45</td				

# 2005 RECAP

CONFERENCE STANDINGS

RESULTS AND STATISTICS COURTESY OF NCAA



## DIVISION I-A

CONFERENCE OVERALL  
W L PF PA W L PF PA

### ATLANTIC COAST

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL					
	W L	PF PA	W L	PF PA			
Atlantic							
Florida State	5 3 219	780 8 5 376	286				
Boston College	5 3 181	160 9 3 310	191				
Clemson	4 4 222	161 8 4 316	212				
N.C. State	3 5 136	182 7 5 249	212				
Maryland	3 5 98	217 5 6 270	275				
Wake Forest	3 5 202	227 4 7 269	316				
Coastal							
Virginia Tech	7 1 263	86 11 2 440	168				
Miami	6 2 238	118 9 3 325	171				
Georgia Tech	5 3 154	162 7 5 222	241				
North Carolina	4 4 148	188 5 6 198	288				
Virginia	3 5 177	202 7 5 320	279				
Duke	0 8 95	342 1 10 177	408				

### BIG EAST

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL					
	W L	PF PA	W L	PF PA			
West Virginia	7 0 244	104 11 1 385	214				
Louisville	5 2 273	175 9 3 521	284				
Rutgers	4 3 188	199 7 5 344	254				
USF	4 3 188	135 6 6 276	216				
Pittsburgh	4 3 189	178 5 6 267	243				
Connecticut	2 5 115	170 5 6 272	211				
Cincinnati	2 5 117	230 4 7 192	345				
Syracuse	0 7 73	196 1 10 152	295				

### BIG TEN

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL					
	W L	PF PA	W L	PF PA			
Penn State	7 1 282	141 11 1 413	204				
Ohio State	7 1 275	118 10 2 392	183				
Wisconsin	5 3 246	228 10 3 444	309				
Iowa	5 3 253	254 7 5 388	407				
Michigan	5 3 232	185 7 5 360	254				
Northwestern	5 3 219	178 7 5 345	244				
Minnesota	4 4 255	273 7 5 429	348				
Purdue	3 5 222	212 5 6 330	209				
Michigan State	2 6 237	247 5 6 372	316				
Indiana	1 7 155	303 4 7 248	361				
Illinois	0 8 94	351 2 9 187	435				

### BIG 12

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL					
	W L	PF PA	W L	PF PA			
North							
Colorado	5 3 219	167 7 6 305	307				
Iowa State	4 4 232	158 7 5 339	230				
Nebraska	4 4 201	208 4 6 296	252				
Missouri	4 4 200	236 7 5 369	350				
Kansas	3 5 127	210 7 5 269	264				
Kansas State	2 6 179	258 5 6 289	305				
South							
Texas	8 0 405	137 13 0 652	23				
Texas Tech	6 2 264	183 9 3 473	226				
Oklahoma	6 2 241	190 8 4 323	277				
Texas A&M	3 5 218	279 5 6 352	343				
Baylor	2 6 140	240 5 6 236	291				
Oklahoma State	1 7 164	321 4 7 222	344				

### CONFERENCE USA

CONFERENCE USA

CONFERENCE OVERALL  
W L PF PA W L PF PA

### East

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL					
	W L	PF PA	W L	PF PA			
UCF	7 1 245	204 8 5 373	373				
Memphis	5 3 207	201 7 5 326	276				
Southern Miss	5 3 238	182 7 5 355	272				
East Carolina	4 4 194	232 5 6 267	317				
JAB	3 5 235	212 5 6 307	264				
Marshall	3 5 135	199 4 7 204	285				
South							
Tulsa	6 2 276	180 9 4 430	305				
UTEP	5 3 269	236 8 4 382	311				
Houston	4 4 241	218 6 6 337	324				
SMU	4 4 177	176 5 6 229	280				
Tulane	1 7 171	257 2 9 234	348				
Rice	1 7 201	292 1 10 241	447				

### MID-AMERICAN

MID-AMERICAN

CONFERENCE OVERALL  
W L PF PA W L PF PA

### East

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL					
	W L	PF PA	W L	PF PA			
Akron	5 3 204	174 7 6 307	318				
Miami	5 3 272	194 7 4 371	258				
Bowling Green	5 3 240	193 6 5 372	304				
Ohio	3 5 162	243 4 7 192	336				
Buffalo	1 7 107	24 1 10 110	327				
Kent State	0 8 102	236 1 10 180	331				
West							
Northern Illinois	6 2 263	169 7 5 389	274				
Toledo	6 2 266	173 9 3 429	26				
Western Michigan	5 3 282	267 7 4 354	342				
Central Michigan	5 3 230	190 6 5 260	220				
Ball State	4 4 230	259 4 7 233	416				
Eastern Michigan	3 5 183	202 4 7 240	295				
MOUNTAIN WEST							
TCU	8 0 306	151 1 1 371	199				
BYU	5 3 297	237 6 6 386	316				
Colorado State	5 3 197	210 6 6 291	338				
New Mexico	4 4 230	250 5 6 326	327				
Juli	4 4 247	2 7 5 5 322	279				
San Diego State	4 4 206	184 5 7 323	325				
Air Force	3 5 262	278 4 7 330	349				
Wyoming	2 6 195	251 4 7 271	297				
JULY	1 7 135	297 2 9 207	38				

### PAC-10

PAC-10

CONFERENCE OVERALL  
W L PF PA W L PF PA

### CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE		OVERALL		CONFERENCE		OVERALL		CONFERENCE		OVERALL		CONFERENCE		OVERALL												
W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA											
Missouri Southern	2	6	202	248	3	7	267	314	Lincoln (Mo.)	3	7	119	310	Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic	6	1	321	83	7	4	402	192				
Southwest Baptist	1	7	170	386	3	8	254	500	Missouri-Rolla	7	4	379	285	Albion	5	2	195	108	8	2	338	140				
Truman	0	8	112	317	2	9	206	413	North Greenville (S.C.)	2	8	279	313	Adrian	5	2	192	120	3	5	254	254				
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>									Panhandle State (Okla.)	1	10	89	480	Hope	5	2	222	130	5	5	254	254				
South Dakota	4	2	244	155	9	2	547	247	St. Joseph's (Ind.)	7	4	265	222	Aims	4	3	199	174	6	4	308	266				
North Dakota	4	2	197	96	10	3	450	172	Tiffin (Ohio)	6	5	267	230	Olivet	4	3	195	200	5	5	265	269				
Nebraska-Omaha	4	2	199	175	8	3	388	260	Upper Iowa	3	8	161	310	Kalamazoo	3	4	138	234	4	6	181	348				
Minnesota Duluth	4	2	200	188	8	4	358	301	Western New Mexico	5	5	247	248	Wisconsin-Lutheran	1	6	90	221	1	9	112	299				
St. Cloud State	3	3	139	158	8	3	334	220	Tri-State	0	7	129	322	0	10	162	455									
Augustana	2	4	102	231	6	5	285	289																		
Minnesota State	0	6	96	174	2	9	262	268																		
<b>NORTHEAST-10</b>																										
C.W. Post	8	1	423	157	10	3	552	319	<b>AMERICAN SOUTHWEST</b>																	
Southern Connecticut	7	2	443	191	8	3	507	274	Mary Hardin-Baylor	7	1	327	65	9	1	407	95	<b>OHIO ATHLETIC</b>								
Bentley	7	2	324	176	7	3	341	248	Hardin-Simmons	7	2	291	175	8	2	329	187	Mount Union	8	1	405	68	14	1	620	154
Bryant	6	3	257	238	7	3	312	245	Howard Payne	7	2	300	216	7	3	306	250	Capital	7	2	292	113	10	3	412	177
American International	5	4	181	202	5	4	181	202	East Texas Baptist	6	3	198	199	6	4	205	250	Ohio Northern	7	2	357	146	8	2	405	149
Stonehill	4	5	180	273	4	6	187	289	Frostburg St.	1	4	78	131	6	5	203	197	John Carroll	6	3	265	189	7	3	303	202
Assumption	3	6	137	250	4	5	164	267	Buffalo St.	1	4	101	157	3	6	185	264	Otterbein	6	3	222	227	3	7	236	227
Memphack	3	6	224	307	4	6	259	307	Apprentice	1	4	41	166	4	6	147	242	Marietta	4	5	172	309	5	5	197	316
Pace	2	7	150	250	3	7	188	277									Baldwin-Wallace	3	6	148	181	4	6	171	198	
Saint Anselm	0	9	87	362	1	9	127	376									Muskingum	2	7	117	207	3	7	127	220	
<b>NORTHERN SUN</b>																	Wilmington	2	7	95	293	2	8	113	314	
Concordia-St. Paul	6	1	297	159	9	3	424	297									Heidelberg	0	9	128	469	0	10	142	530	
Winona State	6	1	306	97	8	3	413	224																		
Northern State	5	2	195	142	6	5	288	255																		
Bemidji State	4	3	248	209	7	3	353	268																		
Wayne State	4	3	196	168	4	7	241	290																		
SIU Minnesota State	1	6	124	221	4	7	221	302																		
MSU Moorhead	1	6	103	229	1	9	132	369																		
Minnesota-Crookston	1	6	114	358	1	10	128	562																		
<b>PENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC</b>																										
<b>□ Eastern</b>																										
Bloomsburg	6	0	215	113	11	1	466	210																		
West Chester	5	1	255	107	8	4	400	264																		
East Stroudsburg	4	2	197	99	11	2	596	341																		
Millersville	3	3	133	127	5	6	220	238																		
Kutztown	2	4	129	155	2	8	190	258																		
Mansfield	1	5	122	233	1	10	199	492																		
Cheyney	0	6	53	250	2	9	117	387																		
<b>□ Western</b>																										
California	5	1	227	104	8	2	427	141																		
Edinboro	5	1	171	56	8	2	314	93																		
Indiana	4	2	149	123	5	5	197	224																		
Slippery Rock	4	2	193	128	5	5	259	251																		
Skippensburg	2	4	119	142	4	7	221	269																		
Clarion	1	5	43	182	3	7	101	316																		
Lock Haven	0	6	47	214	2	9	88	431																		
<b>ROCKY MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC</b>																										
Nebraska-Kearney	7	1	312	157	9	3	439	264																		
Fort Lewis	6	2	282	206	6	4	296	306																		
Colorado Mines	6	2	285	210	6	5	374	334																		
Adams State	5	3	247	216	6	5	309	282																		
Mesa State	4	4	208	201	5	6	263	285																		
Chadron State	4	4	263	171	4	6	304	235																		
Fort Hays State	2	6	117	273	2	8	137	383																		
Western State	2	6	105	246	2	9	134	362																		
New Mexico Highlands	0	8	206	345	1	10	274	483																		
<b>SOUTH ATLANTIC</b>																										
Presbyterian	7	0	230	65	10	2	402	170																		
Carson-Newman	5	2	202	120	8	2	332	763																		
Newberry	4	3	184	199	5	4	262	241																		
Catawba	3	4	167	174	6	5	228	227																		
Lenoir-Rhyne	3	4	99	158	5	5	168	222																		
Mars Hill	3	4	141	197	4	6	187	241																		
Wingate	2	5	150	184	5	5	271	226																		
Tusculum	1	6	95	171	3	7	143	218																		
<b>SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGiate ATHLETIC</b>																										
Albany State (Ga.)	8	1	284	175	8	2	304	203																		
Tuskegee	8	1	301	131	10	1	342	167																		
Fort Valley State	7	2	273	175	7	3	223	207																		
Stillman	5	4	195	149	6	4	229	180																		
Kentucky State	5	4	190	199	6	5	245	231																		
Benedict	4	5	199	212	6	5	256	237																		
Miles	3	6	167	196	4	7	211	216																		
Clark Atlanta	3	6	158	210	3	8	197	258																		
Morehouse	2	7	207	276	3	7	257	304																		
Lane	0	9	185	360	0	10	191	384																		
<b>WEST VIRGINIA INTERCOLLEGiate ATHLETIC</b>																										
Shepherd	8	0	315	69	11	1	418	142																		
Glenville State	7	1	329	123	9	2	432	173																		
Charleston	6	2	201	134	8	3	28																			

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL		CONFERENCE	OVERALL				
	W	L	P%	W	L				
<b>INDEPENDENTS</b>									
Huntingdon (Ala.)	7	2	.306	171	St. Francis (Ind.)	7	0	13	1
Northwestern (Minn.)	8	3	.387	152	Geneva (Pa.)	5	2	8	4
Rockford	7	3	.351	155	Walsh (Ohio)	4	2	8	3
Martin Luther	5	3	.164	108	Quincy (Ill.)	4	3	5	6
Westminster (Mo.)	5	5	.186	210	Urbana (Ohio)	3	4	6	5
Maranatha Baptist	4	5	.209	245	Ohio Dominican	2	4	3	7
Husson	3	4	.214	146	Malone (Ohio)	2	5	3	7
Minnesota-Morris	4	6	.228	236	Taylor (Ind.)	0	7	0	10
Plymouth State	4	6	.167	252	Seton Hall (Pa.)	-	-	1	9
Crown	3	5	.134	213					
Chapman	2	7	.165	296					
Blackburn	2	8	.216	285					
Colorado College	2	8	.232	434					
Principia	1	8	.132	424					
Mount Ida	1	9	.182	434					
Becker	0	8	.126	362					
Macalester	0	9	.101	381					
Menlo	0	10	.176	481					

**NAIA**

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL	
	W	L	
<b>NAIA STATE FOOTBALL LEAGUE</b>			
Texas College	5	0	6
Northwestern Okla. St.	4	1	4
Southern Nazarene (Okla.)	3	2	6
Bacone (Okla.)	3	4	4
Peru State (Kan.)	0	5	1
	10	10	

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL	
	W	L	
<b>FRONTIER CONFERENCE</b>			
Carroll (Mo.)	8	0	14
Montana Tech	6	2	9
Montana St.-Northern	3	5	5
Montana Western	2	6	2
Rocky Mountain (Mont.)	1	7	1
	10	10	

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL	
	W	L	
<b>ATHLETIC CONF.</b>			
Evangel (Mo.)	8	2	9
Graceland (Iowa)	8	2	9
Mid Amer. Nazarene	7	3	7
Lindenwood (Mo.)	7	3	7
Benedictine (Kan.)	6	4	6
William Jewell (Mo.)	6	4	6
Missouri Valley	4	6	5
Culver-Stockton (Mo.)	3	7	3
Central Methodist (Mo.)	3	7	3
Baker (Kan.)	3	7	3
Avila (Mo.)	0	10	0
	10	10	

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL	
	W	L	
<b>East</b>			
Georgetown (Ky.)	8	0	9
Cumberland (Ky.)	6	2	8
Pikeville (Ky.)	6	2	7
Union (Ky.)	4	4	4
Shorter (Ga.)	2	6	2
Virginia-Wise	1	7	4
	3	3	
<b>West</b>			
Bethel (Tenn.)	6	2	7
Lambuth (Tenn.)	5	3	5
Bethelway (Miss.)	4	4	5
Kentucky Wesleyan	3	5	3
Campbellsville (Ky.)	2	6	2
Cumberland (Tenn.)	1	7	2
	8	8	

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL	
	W	L	
<b>CONFERENCE</b>			
Central Arkansas	28	17	11
North Alabama	40	20	18
Pittsburg State	49	20	29
NW Missouri State	45	14	31
C.W. Post	24	17	7
East Stroudsburg	55	23	32
North Dakota	23	13	10
Saginaw Valley	31	16	15
	17	17	
<b>SECOND ROUND</b>			
Central Arkansas	52	28	24
North Alabama	24	21	17
Pittsburg State	43	33	10
NW Missouri State	42	32	10
C.W. Post	28	21	7
East Stroudsburg	52	39	16
	17	17	

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL	
	W	L	
<b>CONFERENCE</b>			
Albany State	20	17	3
Vadosta State	13	11	2
Nebraska-Kearney	20	12	8
Angelo State	14	14	0
West Chester	20	17	3
Southern Conn. St.	33	23	10
Minnesota Duluth	12	11	1
Northwood	16	16	0
	17	17	
<b>SECOND ROUND</b>			
Presbyterian	28	21	7
N.C. Central	21	17	4
West Texas A&M	13	11	2
Washington	32	21	11
Shepherd	21	16	5
Bloomsburg	39	16	13
	17	17	

**CONFERENCE****SECOND ROUND****CONFERENCE****SECOND ROUND**

## &lt;b

# 2006 NCAA DIVISION I SCHEDULES

- PROVIDED BY STATS INC

## AIR FORCE

Air Force Academy, CO

S.9 @TENNESSEE

S.23 @WYOMING 28-29

S.30 New Mexico 42-24

0.7 Navy 24-27

0.12 Colorado State 23-41

0.21 @SAN DIEGO STATE 41-29

0.28 Brigham Young 41-62

N.3 @ARMY 24-27

N.11 Notre Dame 31-16

N.18 Utah 35-38

N.24 @UNLV 42-7

D.2 @TCU 10-48

*Coach: Fisher DeBerry Colors: Silver & Blue*

*Nickname: Falcons 2005 Record: 4-7*

## AKRON

Akron, OH

S.2 @PENN STATE

S.9 @NORTH CAROLINA STATE

S.16 @CENTRAL MICHIGAN 17-31

S.23 North Texas

S.30 @KENT STATE 35-3

0.7 @CINCINNATI

0.21 Miami (OH) 23-51

0.28 @TOLEDO

N.4 Bowling Green 24-14

N.9 Buffalo 13-7

N.16 @OHIO 27-3

N.24 Western Michigan

*Coach: J.D. Brookhart Colors: Blue & Gold*

*Nickname: Zips 2005 Record: 7-5*

## ALABAMA

Tuscaloosa, AL

S.2 Hawaii

S.9 Vanderbilt

S.16 Louisiana-Monroe

S.23 @ARKANSAS 24-13

S.30 @FLORIDA 31-3

0.7 Duke

0.14 Mississippi 13-10

0.21 @TENNESSEE 6-3

0.28 Florida International

N.4 Mississippi State 17-0

N.11 @LSU 13-16 (OT)

N.18 Auburn 18-28

*Coach: Mike Shula Colors: Crimson & White*

*Nickname: Crimson Tide 2005 Record: 9-2*

## ALABAMA A&M

Normal, AL

S.2 @TENNESSEE STATE 27-14

S.9 Grambling State 6-45

S.16 @MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE 27-13

S.23 @TEXAS SOUTHERN 7-17

0.7 Southern University 20-7

0.14 Stillman

0.21 @ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF 28-13

0.28 @ALABAMA STATE 31-28

N.4 @JACKSON STATE 52-6

N.11 Acorn State 28-27

N.18 Prairie View A&M 31-16

\*@Birmingham, AL

*Coach: Anthony Jones Colors: Maroon & White*

*Nickname: Bulldogs 2005 Record: 9-3*

## ALABAMA STATE

Montgomery, AL

S.2 @TROY

S.9 Texas Southern 27-15

S.16 Arkansas-Pine Bluff 41-10

S.23 @ALABAMA STATE 38-3

S.30 @SOUTHERN JUNIOR V 45-35

0.7 Jackson State\* 44-23

0.14 @PRAIRIE VIEW A&M 34-13

0.28 Alabama A&M\*\* 28-31

N.4 @GRAMBLING STATE 27-32

N.11 Mississippi Valley State 33-38

N.23 Tuskegee 27-28 (OT)

\*@Mobile, AL

\*\*@Birmingham, AL

*Coach: Charles Coe III Colors: Black & Old Gold*

*Nickname: Hornets 2005 Record: 6-5*

## ALBANY

Albany, NY

S.2 @LEHIGH

S.9 Fordham 41-0

## DELaware

S.23 Central Connecticut State

S.30 @CORNELL

0.7 @STONY BROOK

0.14 @SACRED HEART

0.21 St. Francis (PA)

0.28 Wagner

0.4 @ROBERT MORRIS

0.11 Monmouth

13-16

*Coach: Bob Ford Colors: Purple and Gold*

*Nickname: Great Danes 2005 Record: 5-6*

13-14

N.4 @SOUTH CAROLINA

N.11 Tennessee

N.24 @MISSISSIPPI STATE

N.24 LSU@

\*@Little Rock, AR

*Coach: Houston Nutt Colors: Cardinal & White*

*Nickname: Razorbacks 2005 Record: 4-7*

10-14

N.21 Cumberland University

N.28 Charleston Juniv

N.4 North Greenville

N.11 @MOREHEAD STATE

N.18 @WESTERN KENTUCKY

*Coach: Carroll McCray Colors: Red & White*

*Nickname: Governors 2005 Record: 2-9*

24-15

N.18 Maryland

N.23 @Miami (FL)

*Coach: Tom O'Brien Colors: Maroon & Gold*

*Nickname: Eagles 2005 Record: 8-3*

31-16

19-27

N.21 @Miami (FL)

*Coach: Tom O'Brien Colors: Maroon & Gold*

*Nickname: Eagles 2005 Record: 8-3*

12-44

N.18 @TOLEDO

N.24 Kent State

14-34

N.21 @CLEVELAND, OH

*Coach: Gregg Brandon Colors: Brown & Orange*

*Nickname: Falcons 2005 Record: 6-5*

41-44 (OT)

N.18 @CINCINNATI

*Coach: Brody Hoke Colors: Cardinal & White*

*Nickname: Cardinals 2005 Record: 4-7*

3-20

N.21 @ARIZONA

N.9 Tulsa

S.16 @BOSTON COLLEGE

N.23 Utah State

S.28 @TCU

0.7 San Diego State

0.21 UNLV

0.28 @AIR FORCE

N.4 @COLORADO STATE

N.9 Wyoming

N.18 @UTAH

N.24 @MICHIGAN

N.24 @TOLEDO

N.24 Kent State

14-34

N.21 @CLEVELAND, OH

*Coach: Brody Hoke Colors: Cardinal & White*

*Nickname: Indians 2005 Record: 6-5*

55-14

N.21 @CENTRAL MICHIGAN

N.4 @AKRON

N.7 Miami (OH)

N.15 Toledo

42-14

N.21 @CLEVELAND, OH

41-44 (OT)

N.18 @CINCINNATI

*Coach: Gregg Brandon Colors: Brown & Orange*

*Nickname: Falcons 2005 Record: 6-5*

70-7

N.21 @CLEVELAND, OH

14-24

N.75 Miami (OH)

42-14

N.21 @CLEVELAND, OH

41-44 (OT)

N.18 @CINCINNATI

*Coach: Gregg Brandon Colors: Brown & Orange*

*Nickname: Falcons 2005 Record: 6-5*

35-21

N.18 New Mexico

27-24

N.25 @UTAH

34-21

N.18 @UTAH

34-21

N.21 @UTAH

34-21

## 2006 NCAA SCHEDULES

S.23 Jacksonville	21-55	0.23 Virginia Military	12-34	M.4 #ELKHORN	34-50	<b>DAVIDSON</b>	0.7 #FORDHAM	30-13
S.20 Dayton	7-41	0.28 Georgetown	38-7	N.11 Holy Cross	27-14	Davison, NC	0.14 @ST. PETER'S	24-0
0.7 @SAN DIEGO	7-49	N.4 Gardner-Webb	31-30	N.18 #BUCKNELL	16-10	#VIRGINIA MILITARY	0.21 Marist	22-14
0.14 Drake	10-56	N.11 @LIBERTY	34-27 (OT)	Couch: Dick Beadle Colors: Maroon & White		5.2 Wingate	0.28 Iona	31-17
0.21 Valparaiso	21-34	N.18 #COASTAL CAROLINA		Nickname: Readers 2005 Record: 8-4		5.3 ELMOND-RHINE	0.4 @LA SALLE	56-14
0.28 @MISSOURI-ROLLA	28-45	Couch: Jay Mills Colors: Blue & Gold				5.30 San Diego	Coach: Jerry Schmitt Colors: Red & Blue	
N.4 Morehead State	10-58	Nickname: Buccaneers 2005 Record: 7-4				0.7 Jacksonville	Nickname: Dukes 2005 Record: 7-3	
N.11 @DAVIDSON						0.14 #MOREHEAD STATE		
Coach: Jeff Varsi Colors: Blue & White						0.21 Dayton		
Nickname: Bulldogs 2005 Record: 0-11						0.28 #VALPARAISO		
<b>CAL POLY</b>						N.4 #DRAKE		
San Luis Obispo, CA						0.11 Butler		
S.2 Fort Lewis						Coach: Tripp Merritt Colors: Red & Black		
S.9 @WEBER STATE						Nickname: Wildcats 2005 Record: 4-6		
5.16 @SACRAMENTO STATE	37-13							
S.23 @SAH JOSE STATE								
S.30 Southern Utah	20-10							
0.7 California-Davis	13-20							
0.21 South Dakota State	24-16							
0.28 @SAN DIEGO STATE								
N.4 @MONTANA	35-21							
N.11 @NORTH DAKOTA STATE	37-6							
N.18 Savannah State								
Coach: Rich Ellerson Colors: Green & Gold								
Nickname: Mustangs 2005 Record: 9-4								
<b>HAWAII</b>								
Berkeley, CA								
S.2 @TENNESSEE								
S.9 Minnesota								
S.16 Portland State								
S.23 Arizona State								
5.30 #OREGON STATE	20-23							
0.7 Oregon	20-27 (OT)							
0.14 @WASHINGTON STATE	42-38							
0.21 Washington	56-17							
N.4 UCLA	40-47							
N.11 @ARIZONA	28-0							
N.18 @USC	10-35							
D.2 Stanford	27-3							
Coach: Jeff Tedford Colors: Blue & Gold								
Nickname: Golden Bears 2005 Record: 7-4								
<b>CALIFORNIA-DAVIS</b>								
Davis, CA								
S.2 @NORTHERN COLORADO	24-14							
S.9 #TCU								
S.16 @MONTANA STATE								
S.23 @WYOLINGSTON STATE								
0.7 @CAL POLY	20-13							
0.14 Central Arkansas								
0.21 Southern Utah	33-21							
0.28 #SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	14-16							
N.4 North Dakota State	20-14							
N.18 Sacramento State	37-7							
N.25 San Diego								
Coach: Bob Biggs Colors: Yale Blue & Gold								
Nickname: Aggies 2005 Record: 6-5								
<b>CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE</b>								
New Britain, CT								
S.2 Marist	22-31							
S.9 @GEORGIA SOUTHERN								
S.15 @SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE								
S.23 @ALBANY	14-13							
S.30 #ST. PETER'S	56-20							
0.7 St. Francis (PA)	28-31							
0.14 @ROBERT MORRIS	21-14							
0.21 Wagner	38-34							
0.28 @MONMOUTH	15-13							
N.4 #SACRED HEART	24-17							
N.11 Stony Brook	21-23							
Coach: Jeff McInerney Colors: Blue & White								
Nickname: Blue Devils 2005 Record: 7-4								
<b>CENTRAL MICHIGAN</b>								
Mount Pleasant, MI								
A.31 Boston College								
S.9 @MICHIGAN								
S.16 Akron	31-17							
S.23 #EASTERN MICHIGAN	20-23 (OT)							
S.30 #KENTUCKY								
0.7 #TOLEDO	21-17							
0.14 Ball State	31-24 (OT)							
0.19 Bowling Green								
N.4 @TEMPLE								
N.10 Western Michigan	24-31							
N.17 @NORTHERN ILLINOIS	28-31							
N.24 @BUFFALO								
Coach: Brian Kelly Colors: Maroon & Gold								
Nickname: Chippewas 2005 Record: 6-5								
<b>CHARLESTON SOUTHERN</b>								
Charleston, SC								
S.2 @PRESBYTERIAN	0-42							
S.9 @CITADEL	14-28							
S.16 Wingate								
S.30 North Greenville	35-28							
D.2 @SAVANNAH STATE	48-28							
O.14 Edward Waters								
Coach: Jeff Varsi Colors: Blue & White								
Nickname: Bulldogs 2005 Record: 0-11								
<b>CHATTANOOGA</b>								
Chattanooga, TN								
A.31 #TENNESSEE TECH	30-23 (OT)							
S.9 #MEMPHIS	14-59							
S.16 #WESTERN KENTUCKY								
S.23 Georgia Southern	10-48							
S.30 #CITADEL	31-21							
S.7 Appalachian State	25-35							
N.14 #WESTERN CAROLINA	20-38							
N.21 #FURMAN	35-56							
N.28 Elon	10-7							
N.4 Jacksonville State	21-18							
N.11 #WOFFORD	25-13							
N.18 Gardner-Webb	11-13							
Coach: Rodney Alison Colors: Navy Blue & Gold								
Nickname: Mocs 2005 Record: 6-5								
<b>CINCINNATI</b>								
Cincinnati, OH								
S.2 Eastern Kentucky								
S.8 Pittsburgh	20-38							
S.16 @OHIO STATE								
S.23 @VIRGINIA TECH								
S.30 Miami (OH)	16-44							
S.7 Akron								
N.14 #LOUISVILLE	22-46							
N.21 South Florida	16-31							
N.28 Syracuse	22-16							
N.11 #WEST VIRGINIA	14-38							
N.18 Rutgers	9-44							
N.25 #CONNECTICUT	28-17							
Coach: Mark Dantonio Colors: Red & Black								
Nickname: Bearcats 2005 Record: 4-7								
<b>CITADEL</b>								
Charleston, SC								
S.2 #TEXAS A&M								
S.9 Charleston Southern	28-14							
S.23 #PITSBURGH								
S.30 #GEORGETOWN								
S.20 #WAKE FOREST								
S.7 #WAKE FOREST	27-31							
S.12 Temple*	37-7							
N.14 #FURMAN	31-19 (OT)							
N.21 Western Carolina	17-7							
N.28 Georgia Southern	14-49							
N.4 #APPALACHIAN STATE	13-45							
N.11 Virginia Military	22-14							
N.18 #ELON	21-0							
Coach: Kevin Higgins Colors: Columbia Blue & White								
Nickname: Lions 2005 Record: 2-8								
<b>CLEMSON</b>								
Clemson, SC								
S.2 Florida Atlantic								
S.9 #BOSTON COLLEGE	13-16 (OT)							
S.16 #FLORIDA STATE	35-14							
S.23 North Carolina								
S.30 Louisiana Tech								
S.20 #WAKE FOREST	27-31							
S.7 #WAKE FOREST	27-31							
S.12 Temple*	37-7							
N.14 Georgia Tech	9-10							
N.21 #VIRGINIA TECH								
N.4 Maryland	20-24							
N.11 North Carolina State	31-10							
N.25 South Carolina	13-9							
*At Charlotte, NC								
Coach: Tommy Bowden Colors: Purple & Orange								
Nickname: Tigers 2005 Record: 7-4								
<b>COASTAL CAROLINA</b>								
Conway, SC								
S.2 Elon	17-10							
S.9 #WIFORD								
S.16 #WAKE FOREST								
S.16 #GEORGIA SOUTHERN								
S.23 South Carolina State	24-23							
S.30 #WINSTON SALEM								
S.7 Furman								
N.14 #VIRGINIA MILITARY	38-14							
N.28 Liberty	27-21 (OT)							
N.4 Savannah State	42-16							
N.11 #GARDNER WEBB	34-31 (OT)							
N.18 Charleston Southern	27-34 (OT)							
Coach: David Bennett Colors: Coastal Teal, Bronze								
Nickname: Chameleons 2005 Record: 9-2								
<b>COLBALT</b>								
Hamilton, NY								
S.2 #MASSACHUSETTS	17-14							
S.16 Dartmouth	21-26							
S.23 Monmouth	34-7							
S.16 Georgetown	16-10							
S.7 Princeton	34-20							
N.4 #CORNELL	23-0							
N.21 #FORDHAM	23-0							
N.28 Lafayette	18-15							
Coach: Buddy Tewes Colors: Dartmouth Green & White								
Nickname: Big Green 2005 Record: 2-8								
<b>CHARLESTON SOUTHERN</b>								
Charleston, SC								
S.2 @PRESBYTERIAN	0-42							
S.9 @CITADEL	14-28							
S.16 Wingate								
S.30 North Greenville	35-28							
D.2 @SAVANNAH STATE	48-28							
O.14 Edward Waters								
Coach: Jeff Varsi Colors: Blue & White								
Nickname: Bulldogs 2005 Record: 0-11								
<b>COLORADO</b>								
Boulder, CO								
S.2 Montana State								
S.9 #COLORADO STATE*	31-28							
S.16 Arizona State								
S.23 #GEORGIA								
S.30 Missouri	41-12							
S.7 #VIRGINIA MILITARY								
S.21 #WICHITA STATE								
S.28 #OKLAHOMA								
S.11 #DUKE								
S.23 #COLORADO								
S.16 #WICHITA STATE								
S.20 #COLORADO								
S.1								

**FLORIDA**

Gainesville, FL	L.11 @LEHIGH	3-40
S.2 Southern Miss	L.18 Georgetown	21-24
S.9 UCF	<i>Coach: Tom Morello Colors: Maroon &amp; White</i>	
S.16 @TENNESSEE	<i>Nickname: Rams 2005 Record: 2-9</i>	
16-7		
S.23 Kentucky	49-28	
S.30 Alabama	3-31	
0.7 LSU	17-21	
O.14 @AJBURN		
O.28 Georgia*	14-10	
N.4 @VANDERBILT	49-42 (OT)	
N.11 South Carolina	22-30	
N.18 Western Carolina		
N.25 @FLORIDA STATE	34-7	
*At Jacksonville, FL		
<i>Coach: Urban Meyer Colors: Orange &amp; Blue</i>		
<i>Nickname: Gators 2005 Record: 6-5</i>		

**FLORIDA A&M**

Tallahassee, FL	<i>Pal Hill Colors: Cardinal &amp; Blue</i>	
S.2 @DELAWARE STATE*	17-21	
S.9 @MIAM, FL		
S.16 @HOWARD	33-20	
S.23 Winston-Salem		
S.30 @TENNESSEE STATE**	12-7	
O.14 South Carolina State	3-49	
O.21 @NORTH DAKOTA STATE	31-17	
O.28 Morgan State	27-16	
N.4 @NORTH CAROLINA A&T	24-14	
N.11 Hampton	14-34	
N.18 Bethune-Cookman***	26-23 (OT)	
*At Detroit, MI		
**At Atlanta, GA		
***At Orlando, FL		
<i>Coach: Robin Carter Colors: Orange &amp; Green</i>		
<i>Nickname: Rattlers 2005 Record: 6-5</i>		

**FLORIDA ATLANTIC**

Boca Raton, FL	<i>Boeing Colors: Orange &amp; Black</i>	
S.2 @CLEMSON		
S.9 @KANSAS STATE		
S.16 @OKLAHOMA STATE	3-13	
S.23 @SOUTH CAROLINA		
S.30 @LOUISIANA-MONROE	21-28	
O.18 Louisiana-Lafayette	28-10	
O.28 Arkansas State	0-3 (OT)	
N.4 @MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE	14-35	
N.11 Troy	14-28	
N.18 @NORTH TEXAS	26-23	
N.25 Florida International	6-52	
*At Miami, FL		
<i>Coach: Howard Schnellenberger Colors: Atlantic Blue and Gray</i>		
<i>Nickname: Owls 2005 Record: 2-9</i>		

**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL**

Miami, FL	<i>Florida International Colors: Gold &amp; Blue</i>	
A.11 @MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE	35-31	
S.9 @SOUTH FLORIDA		
S.16 Bowling Green		
S.23 @MARYLAND		
S.30 Arkansas State	24-66	
O.7 @NORTH TEXAS	10-13	
O.14 @AMI (FL)		
O.28 @ALABAMA		
N.4 Louisiana Monroe	31-29	
N.18 Louisiana-Lafayette	2-28	
N.25 @FLORIDA ATLANTIC*	52-6	
D.2 Troy	13-18	
*At Miami, FL		
<i>Coach: Dan Strack Colors: Blue and Gold</i>		
<i>Nickname: Golden Panthers 2005 Record: 5-6</i>		

**FLORIDA STATE**

Tallahassee, FL	<i>Florida State Colors: Garnet &amp; Gold</i>	
S.4 @MIAMI (FL)	10-7	
S.9 Troy		
S.16 Clemson	14-35	
S.23 Rice		
S.5 @NORTH CAROLINA STATE	15-20	
O.14 @DUKE	55-24	
O.21 Boston College	28-17	
O.28 @MARYLAND	35-27	
N.4 Virginia	21-26	
N.11 Wake Forest	41-24	
N.18 Western Michigan		
N.25 Florida	7-34	
<i>Coach: Bobby Bowden Colors: Garnet &amp; Gold</i>		
<i>Nickname: Seminoles 2005 Record: 8-4</i>		

**FORDHAM**

Bronx, NY	<i>Fordham Colors: Gold &amp; Blue</i>	
S.2 Monmouth		
S.9 @ALBANY	0-41	
S.16 @COLUMBIA	17-23	
S.30 @HOLY CROSS	24-20	
O.7 Duquesne	13-30	
O.14 Marist		
O.21 Colgate	0-23	
O.28 @BLICKELL	28-21	
N.4 Lafayette	10-27	
<i>Coach: Mark Rich Colors: Red &amp; Black</i>		
<i>Nickname: Bulldogs 2005 Record: 10-2</i>		

**FRESNO STATE**

Fresno, CA	<i>Fresno State Colors: Cardinal &amp; Gold</i>	
S.1 Nevada	35-38	
S.9 Oregon	34-37	
S.16 @WASHINGTON		
S.30 Colorado State		
O.7 @UTAH STATE	53-21	
O.14 Hawaii	27-13	
O.21 @LSU		
N.1 @BOISE STATE	27-7	
N.11 New Mexico State	37-7	
N.18 Idaho	40-10	
N.24 @LOUISIANA TECH	28-40	
O.2 @SAN JOSE STATE	45-7	
<i>Coach: Chan Gailey Colors: Old Gold &amp; White</i>		
<i>Nickname: Yellow Jackets 2005 Record: 7-4</i>		

**FURMAN**

Greenville, SC	<i>Furman Colors: Furman Orange &amp; Furman Blue</i>	
S.2 Jacksonville State	37-35	
S.9 West Georgia		
S.16 @NORTH CAROLINA		
O.23 Western Carolina	21-41	
O.28 @WOFFORD	34-21	
O.7 @COASTAL CAROLINA		
O.14 Citadel	39-31 (OT)	
O.21 Chattanooga	56-35	
O.28 @APPALACHIAN STATE	23-29	
N.4 @ELON	45-6	
N.11 Georgia Southern	24-27	
<i>Coach: Bobby Lamb Colors: Purple &amp; White</i>		
<i>Nickname: Paladins 2005 Record: 7-1</i>		

**GARDNER-WEBB**

Ballard Springs, NC	<i>Gardner-Webb Colors: Black &amp; Gold</i>	
S.2 @JACKSONVILLE		
S.9 Tennessee Tech		
S.16 @ENNESSEE MARTIN	28-31	
S.30 Appalachian State		
O.23 @SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA		
O.14 Glendale State		
O.28 @LIBERTY	21-16	
N.20 Virginia Military	55-52 (OT)	
N.14 @CHARLES FEN SOUTHERN	7-38	
N.11 Coastal Carolina	31-34 (OT)	
N.18 Wolford	42-56	
<i>Coach: Steve Patton Colors: Scarlet, White &amp; Black</i>		
<i>Nickname: Runnin' Bulldogs 2005 Record: 5-6</i>		

**GEORGETOWN**

Washington, DC	<i>Georgetown Colors: Royal Blue &amp; White</i>	
S.7 Holy Cross	6-48	
S.9 Stony Brook	10-7	
S.16 @BROWN	3-34	
S.23 @COLUMBIA		
S.30 @COLGATE	7-34	
O.7 Lehigh	14-46	
O.14 Bucknell	19-16 (OT)	
O.28 @CHARLESTON SOUTHERN		
N.4 Mays		
N.11 @LAFAVETTE	7-12	
N.18 Fordham	24-21	
<i>Coach: Kevin Kelly Colors: Blue &amp; Gray</i>		
<i>Nickname: Hoyas 2005 Record: 4-7</i>		

**GEORGIA**

Athens, GA	<i>Georgia Colors: Garnet &amp; Black</i>	
S.2 Western Kentucky		
S.9 @SOUTH CAROLINA	17-15	
S.16 UAB		
S.23 Colorado		
S.30 @MISSISSIPPI		
O.7 Tennessee	27-14	
O.14 Vanderbilt	34-17	
O.21 Mississippi State	23-10	
O.28 @FLORIDA*	10-14	
N.4 @XENTUCKY	45-13	
N.11 @ALBURN	30-31	
N.18 Georgia Tech	14-7	
N.25 Georgia Tech		
*At Jacksonville, FL		
<i>Coach: Mark Richt Colors: Red &amp; Black</i>		
<i>Nickname: Bulldogs 2005 Record: 10-2</i>		

**GEORGIA SOUTHERN**

Statesboro, GA	<i>Georgia Southern Colors: Green &amp; White</i>	
S.9 Central Connecticut State		
S.16 Coastal Carolina		
S.23 @CHATTANOOGA	48-10	
S.30 @WESTERN CAROLINA	45-7	
O.7 North Dakota State		
O.14 Elon	49-7	
O.21 Appalachian State	7-24	
O.28 @CITADEL	49-14	
N.4 Wofford	17-21	
N.11 @FURMAN	27-24	
N.18 Central Arkansas	10-6	
<i>Coach: June Jones Colors: Green &amp; White</i>		
<i>Nickname: Warriors 2005 Record: 5-7</i>		

**HOUSTON**

Atlanta, GA	<i>Houston Colors: Blue &amp; White</i>	
S.2 Notre Dame		
S.9 Stanford		
S.16 Troy		
S.21 Virginia	17-27	
S.30 @VIRGINIA TECH	7-51	
O.7 Maryland		
O.14 @EMORY	10-9	
N.4 @NORTH CAROLINA	27-21	
N.11 @NORTH CAROLINA	27-21	
N.18 Duke	35-10	
N.25 Georgia	7-14	
<i>Coach: Dave Cade Colors: Blue, White, &amp; Gold</i>		
<i>Nickname: Pride 2005 Record: 7-4</i>		

**GRAMBLING STATE**

Grambling, LA	<i>Grambling State Colors: Royal Purple &amp; White</i>	
S.2 @HAMILTON*	45-6	
S.9 @HOUSTON		
S.16 Prairie View A&M**	50-7	
S.23 @MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	37-22	
O.14 @ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF**	26-23	
O.21 Jackson State	52-21	
O.28 @TEXAS SOUTHERN	58-21	
N.4 Alabama State	32-27	
N.25 Southern University***	50-35	
O.7 Tulane	35-14	
O.12 Alcorn State		
O.28 @UTEP	46-19	
N.4 @UTSA		
N.11 @BIRMINGHAM, AL		
N.18 @DALLAS, TX		
N.25 @HARVEY ROCK, AR		
O.4 New Orleans, LA		
<i>Coach: Tom Gilmore Colors: Royal Purple &amp; White</i>		
<i>Nickname: Crusaders 2005 Record: 6-5</i>		

**HAMPTON**

Hampton, VA	<i>Hampton Colors: Scarlet &amp; White</i>	
S.2 @GRAMBLING STATE		
S.9 Howard	22-12	
S.16 North Carolina A&T	31-14	
S.23 Morgan State**	44-14	
S.30 @DELAWARE STATE	26-8	
O.7 @CENTRAL STATE**		
O.14 @WILMINGTON		
N.4 @NORTH CAROLINA A&T	55-14	
N.10 Norfolk State	14-10	
N.16 Winston-Salem	55-14	
N.22 Morgan State	16-45	
N.28 @NORTH CAROLINA STATE	27-13	
N.34 @SOUTHERN	38-27 (OT)	
O.21 Boise State	38-41	
O.28 @HAWAII	24-27	
N.4 Nevada	14-62	
N.18 @FRESNO STATE	10-40	
N.25 San Jose State	18-26	
N.31 @EASTERN WASHINGTON	34-30	
N.38 Weber State	21-30	
<i>Coach: Rayford J. Petty Colors: Navy Blue &amp; White</i>		
<i>Nickname: Blugold 2005 Record: 4-1</i>		

**IDAHO**

Moscow, ID	<i>Idaho Colors: Black &amp; Gold</i>	
S.9 @MICHIGAN STATE		
S.16 @WASHINGTON STATE	26-38	
S.23 Idaho State		
S.30 @OREGON STATE	31-21	
O.7 @LEHIGH	24-49	
O.12 Cornell	13-27	
O.14 Lafayette	24-17	
O.21 @PRINCETON	24-27	
O.28 @DARTMOUTH	42-14	
N.4 Columbia	55-7	
N.11 @PENN STATE	29-3	
N.18 Yale</		

**JACKSON STATE**

Jackson, MS	0.7	@TEMPLE
S.2 Paul Quinn	0.14 Toledo	32-35
S.16 Tennessee State*	14-20 (OT)	N.4 @BUFFALO
S.23 Mississippi Valley State	33-14	N.11 @VIRGINIA TECH
S.30 @TEXAS SOUTHERN	24-21	N.18 Eastern Michigan
S.7 @A.BAMA STATE**	23-44	N.24 @BAL. STATE
S.14 Southern University	14-20	Couch: Doug Martin Colors: Blue & Gold
S.21 @GRAMBLING STATE	21-52	Nickname: Golden Flashes 2005 Record: 7-10
S.28 @ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	36-64	
N.4 Alabama A&M	6-52	
N.11 Prairie View A&M	9-27	
N.18 Akron State	14-31	
*At Memphis, TN		
**At Mobile, AL		

Coach: Rick Comegy Colors: Blue & White  
Nickname: Tigers 2005 Record: 2-9

**JACKSONVILLE**

Jacksonville, FL	0.7	KENTUCKY
S.2 Gardner Webb	Lexington, KY	Lexington, KY
S.16 @SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	S.2 @LOUISVILLE	24-31
S.23 @BUTLER	S.9 Texas State	7-13
S.30 @VALPARAISO	S.16 Mississippi	28-49
S.7 @OAVIDSON	S.23 @FLORIDA	
S.14 Dayton	S.30 Central Michigan	
S.21 @MOREHEAD STATE	S.7 South Carolina	16-44
S.28 @NORTH GREENVILLE	D.14 @LSU	
N.4 San Diego	S.28 @MISSISSIPPI STATE	13-7
N.11 Drake	N.4 Georgia	13-45
Coach: Steve Gilbert Colors: Green & White	N.11 Vanderbilt	48-43
Nickname: Dolphins 2005 Record: 4-4	N.18 Louisiana-Monroe	
	N.25 @TENNESSEE	27-27
	D.7 Marist	
	S.21 @DENA	39-32 (OT)
	N.4 Duquesne	14-56
	N.9 @ST. PETER'S	30-14
	S.23 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	
	S.7 Wagner	27-41
	S.9 @MONMOUTH	27-65
	S.23 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	29-27
	S.7 Marist	0-27
	S.21 @DENA	
	N.4 Duquesne	39-32 (OT)
	N.9 @ST. PETER'S	
	S.23 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	
	S.7 Wagner	
	S.9 @MONMOUTH	
	S.23 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	
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	S.21 @DENA	
	N.4 Duquesne	
	N.9 @ST. PETER'S	
	S.23 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	
	S.7 Wagner	
	S.9 @MONMOUTH	
	S.23 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	
	S.7 Marist	
	S.21 @DENA	
	N.4 Duquesne	
	N.9 @ST. PETER'S	
	S.23 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	
	S.7 Wagner	
	S.9 @MONMOUTH	
	S.23 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	
	S.7 Marist	
	S.21 @DENA	
	N.4 Duquesne	
	N.9 @ST. PETER'S	
	S.23 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	
	S.7 Wagner	
	S.9 @MONMOUTH	
	S.23 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	
	S.7 Marist	
	S.21 @DENA	
	N.4 Duquesne	
	N.9 @ST. PETER'S	
	S.23 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	
	S.7 Wagner	
	S.9 @MONMOUTH	
	S.23 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	
	S.7 Marist	
	S.21 @DENA	
	N.4 Duquesne	
	N.9 @ST. PETER'S	
	S.23 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	
	S.7 Wagner	
	S.9 @MONMOUTH	
	S.23 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	
	S.7 Marist	
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# 2008 NCAA SCHEDULES

## MISSISSIPPI STATE

Starville, MS	
A.31 South Carolina	
S.9 Auburn	0-28
S.16 Tulane	21-14
S.23 @UAB	
S.30 @LSU	7-37
0.7 West Virginia	
0.14 Jacksonville State	
0.21 @GEORGIA	10-23
0.28 Kentucky	7-13
N.4 @ALABAMA	0-17
N.18 Arkansas	10-44
N.25 @MISSISSIPPI	35-14
Coach: Sylvester Croom Colors: Maroon & White Nickname: Bulldogs 2005 Record: 3-8	

## MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE

Ito Beno, MS	
S.2 @ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF*	30-17
S.9 @SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	31-28
S.16 Alabama A&M	13-27
S.23 @JACKSON STATE	14-33
S.30 Concordia College	
0.7 Grambling State	22-37
0.14 @NORTH DAKOTA STATE	
0.21 @TEXAS SOUTHERN	35-28
0.28 Prairie View A&M	58-13
N.4 Alcorn State	36-38
N.11 @ALABAMA STATE	38-33
*At Chicago, IL	
Coach: Willie Trotter Colors: Green & White	
Nickname: Delta Devils 2005 Record: 6-5	

## MISSOURI

Columbia, MO	
S.2 Murray State	
S.9 Mississippi	
S.16 @NEW MEXICO	35-45
S.23 Ohio	
S.30 Colorado	12-41
0.7 @TEXAS TECH	
0.14 @TEXAS A&M	
0.21 Kansas State	28-36
0.28 Oklahoma	
N.4 @NEBRASKA	41-24
N.18 @OKLAHOMA STATE	27-24 (OT)
N.25 Kansas	3-13
Coach: Gary Pinkel Colors: Old Gold & Black	
Nickname: Tigers 2005 Record: 6-5	

## MISOURI STATE

Springfield, MO	
S.2 @OKLAHOMA STATE	
S.9 Southwest Baptist	
S.16 @CENTRAL ARKANSAS	
S.23 Sam Houston State	
S.30 Youngstown State	7-31
0.7 @NORTHERN IOWA	24-21
0.14 Western Kentucky	28-37
0.21 @INDIANA STATE	31-27
0.28 Southern Illinois	23-30 (OT)
N.4 @ILLINOIS STATE	23-48
N.11 Western Illinois	24-34
Coach: Terry Allen Colors: Maroon & White	
Nickname: Bears 2005 Record: 4-6	

## MONTMOUTH

West Long Branch, NJ	
S.2 @FORDHAM	
S.9 La Salle	65-27
S.16 St. Peter's	
S.23 @COLGATE	
S.30 Stony Brook	36-7
0.7 Sacred Heart	45-14
0.14 @WAGNER	20-26
0.21 @ROBERT MORRIS	14-0
0.28 Central Connecticut State	13-15
N.4 St. Francis (PA)	15-19
N.11 @ALBANY	16-13
Coach: Kevin Galusha Colors: Royal Blue & White	
Nickname: Hawks 2005 Record: 6-4	

## MONTANA

Missoula, MT	
S.2 @DWA	
S.9 South Dakota State	7-0
S.23 Sacramento State	31-14
S.30 @PORTLAND STATE	37-16
0.7 @EASTERN WASHINGTON	20-34
0.14 Northern Arizona	23-0
0.21 @WEBER STATE	24-19
0.28 Idaho State	32-10
N.4 Cal Poly	21-35
N.11 @NORTHERN COLORADO	
N.18 Montana State	6-16
Coach: Bob Hough Colors: Copper, Silver & Gold	
Nickname: Grizzlies 2005 Record: 8-4	

## MONTANA STATE

Bozeman, MT	
S.2 @COLORADO	
S.9 Chadron State	

## MISSISSIPPI STATE

S.16 California-Davis	
S.23 Eastern Washington	14-35
S.30 @NORTHERN ARIZONA	29-22
0.7 Portland State	41-44
0.14 @SACRAMENTO STATE	37-16
0.21 @IDAHO STATE	30-28
0.28 Weber State	27-24
N.4 Northern Colorado	
N.18 @MONTANA	16-6
Coach: Mike Kramer Colors: Blue & Gold	
Nickname: Bobcats 2005 Record: 7-4	

## MOREHEAD STATE

Morehead, KY	
A.31 @WESTERN ILLINOIS	
S.9 @NEWBERRY	35-33
S.16 Valparaiso	48-7
S.23 Missouri-Rolla	56-55
S.30 @DRAKE	
0.7 @DAYTON	7-42
0.14 Davidson	31-13
0.21 Jacksonville	31-12
0.28 @SAN DIEGO	40-47
N.4 @BUTLER	58-10
N.11 Austin Peay	44-12
Coach: Matt Ballard Colors: Scarlet & White	
Nickname: Eagles 2005 Record: 8-4	

## MORRISON STATE

Baltimore, MD	
S.2 @TOWSON	26-29
S.16 Bowie State	21-35
S.23 @HAMPTON*	14-44
S.30 Bethune-Cookman	26-44
0.7 @NORTH CAROLINA A&T	33-40 (OT)
0.14 @HOWARD	7-0
0.21 Delaware State	14-41
0.28 @FLORIDA A&M	16-27
N.4 @NORFOLK STATE	21-24
N.11 South Carolina State	15-65
*At East Rutherford, NJ	
Coach: Dan Hill-Eley Colors: Royal Blue & Orange	
Nickname: Bears 2005 Record: 2-9	

## MURRAY STATE

Murray, KY	
S.2 @MISSOURI	
S.9 @TENNESSEE STATE	
S.16 @INDIANA STATE	27-15
S.23 Illinois State	0-42
S.30 Tennessee Tech	21-42
0.5 @JACKSONVILLE STATE	23-28
0.14 Samford	23-27
0.21 @EASTERN ILLINOIS	28-35
0.28 Southeast Missouri State	21-52
N.4 @EASTERN KENTUCKY	7-43
N.18 Tennessee-Martin	20-49
Coach: Matt Griffin Colors: Blue & Gold	
Nickname: Racers 2005 Record: 2-9	

## NAVY

Annapolis, MD	
S.2 East Carolina	
S.9 Massachusetts	
S.16 @STANFORD	38-41
S.23 Tulsa	
S.30 @CONNECTICUT	
0.7 @AIR FORCE	27-24
0.14 Rutgers	21-31
0.28 Notre Dame*	21-42
N.4 @DUKE	28-21
N.11 @EASTERN MICHIGAN	
N.18 Temple	38-17
D.2 Army**	42-23
*At Baltimore, MD	
**At Philadelphia, PA	
Coach: Paul Johnson Colors: Navy Blue & Gold	
Royal Nicks Nickname: Colonels 2005 Record: 6-4	

## NEBRASKA

Lincoln, NE	
S.2 Louisiana Tech	
S.9 Nicholls State	
S.16 @USC	
S.23 Troy	
S.30 Kansas	15-40
0.7 @IOWA STATE	27-20 (OT)
0.14 @KANSAS STATE	27-25
0.21 Texas	
0.28 @OKLAHOMA STATE	
N.4 Missouri	
N.11 @TEXAS A&M	24-41
N.18 Winston-Salem	
N.24 Colorado	30-3
Coach: Bill Callahan Colors: Scarlet & Cream	
Nickname: Cornhuskers 2005 Record: 7-4	

## NEVADA

Reno, NV	
S.7 @FRESNO STATE	38-35
S.9 @ARIZONA STATE	
S.16 Colorado State	21-42

## NEVADA

S.22 Northwestern	
S.30 @UNLV	22-14
0.7 @HAWAII	38-28
S.16 San Jose State	30-23
S.28 New Mexico State	48-24
N.4 @IDAHO STATE	62-14
N.11 Utah State	30-24
N.18 @LOUISIANA TECH	37-27
H.25 Boise State	14-49
Coach: Chris Autel Colors: Royal Blue & Silver	
Nickname: Wolf Pack 2005 Record: 8-3	

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Durham, NH	
S.9 @NORTHWESTERN	
S.16 Stony Brook	35-33
S.23 Valparaiso	48-7
S.28 @DELAWARE	
0.7 Richmond	
0.14 James Madison	
0.21 Howard	
0.28 @BETHUNE-COOKMAN	
N.4 Florida Atlantic	
N.11 Hofstra	
N.18 Rhode Island	
Coach: Mike McNamee Colors: Scarlet & Grey	
Nickname: Bears 2005 Record: 8-4	

## NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque, NM	
S.16 @SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	
S.23 @BALTIMORE	
S.30 @NEW MEXICO STATE	21-38
0.7 @UTEP	17-34
S.16 Missouri	45-35
S.23 JEP	13-21
S.30 @AIR FORCE	24-42
0.7 Wyoming	27-24
0.14 @UNLV	24-22
S.21 UNLV	31-27
S.28 @COLORADO STATE	25-35
N.4 TCU	28-49
N.18 Brigham Young	24-27
N.25 San Diego State	47-24
Coach: Rocky Long Colors: Cherry & Silver	
Nickname: Lobos 2005 Record: 6-5	

## NEW MEXICO STATE

Las Cruces, NM	
S.16 @SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	
S.23 @BALTIMORE	
S.30 @NEW MEXICO STATE	21-38
0.7 @UTEP	17-34
S.16 Missouri	45-35
S.23 JEP	13-21
S.30 @AIR FORCE	24-42
0.7 Wyoming	27-24
0.14 @UNLV	24-22
S.21 UNLV	31-27
S.28 @COLORADO STATE	25-35
N.4 TCU	28-49
N.18 Brigham Young	24-27
N.25 San Diego State	47-24
Coach: Chuck Amato Colors: Red & White	
Nickname: Wolfpack 2005 Record: 6-5	

## NEOPOLIS STATE

Norfolk, VA	
S.2 Virginia State	6-34
S.9 Virginia Military	
S.23 @BETHUNE-COOKMAN	61-63 (OT)
S.30 North Carolina A&T	14-16
S.27 @SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	21-35
S.14 @IOWA STATE	14-55
S.21 Florida A&M	17-31
S.28 @HOWARD	26-7
N.4 Morgan State	24-21
N.11 Delaware State	17-38
N.18 Winston-Salem	
N.24 Colorado	
Coach: Pete Adoniou Colors: Green & Gold	
Nickname: Spartans 2005 Record: 4-7	

## NEOPOLIS STATE

Chapel Hill, NC	
S.2 Rutgers	
S.9 Virginia Tech	3-30
S.16 Furman	
S.23 @CLEMSON	
S.7 @MIAMI (FL)	

## NEW YORK STATE

S.14 South Florida	



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## 2006 NCAA SCHEDULES

<b>OHIO</b>	N.25 Oregon 14-56	<b>PURDUE</b>	<b>SACRAMENTO STATE</b>	<b>SAN JOSE STATE</b>
Athens, OH	D.2 @HAWAII	West Lafayette, IN	Sacramento, CA	San Jose, CA
S.2 Tennessee-Martin	Coach: Mike Riley Colors: Orange & Black	S.2 Indiana State	A.31 @BOISE STATE	S.2 @WASHINGTON
S.9 @NORTHERN ILLINOIS	Nickname: Beavers 2005 Record: 5-6	S.9 Miami (OH)	S.16 Cal Poly	S.9 Stanford
S.16 @RUTGERS		S.16 Ball State	35-42 (OT) 13-37	S.23 Cal Poly
S.23 @MISSOURI		S.23 Minnesota	S.23 @MONTANA	S.30 San Diego State
S.30 Bowling Green 14-38		S.30 @NOTRE DAME	S.30 @EASTERN WASHINGTON	21-52
0.7 Western Michigan	S.2 Akron	28-49	14-31	0.14 Utah State
0.14 @ILLINOIS	S.9 @NOTRE DAME	17-34	17-45	0.21 @NEVADA
0.21 Buffalo 34-20	S.16 Youngstown State	0.7 @IOWA	0.14 Montana State	0.28 Louisiana Tech
0.28 @KENT STATE 35-32	S.23 @OHIO STATE	17-10	16-37	0.11 @NEW MEXICO STATE
N.4 @EASTERN MICHIGAN	S.30 Northwestern	34-29	0.21 @NORTHERN ARIZONA	27-10
N.16 Akron 3-27	N.7 @MINNESOTA	44-14	0.28 Northern Colorado	11-11 Boise State
N.24 @MIAMI (OH) 7-38	S.14 Michigan	25-27	N.4 @IDAHO STATE	18-38
Coach: Frank Solich Colors: Green & White	S.21 Illinois	63-10	H.11 Portland State	38-45
Nickname: Bobcats 2005 Record: 4-7	S.28 @PURDUE	33-15	N.25 @CALIFORNIA-DAVIS	26-18
	N.4 @WISCONSIN	35-14	Coach: Steve Alustagian Colors: Green & Gold	D.2 Fresno State
	N.11 Temple		Nickname: Hornets 2005 Record: 2-9	7-45
<b>OHIO STATE</b>	N.18 Michigan State	31-22	Coach: Joe Tiller Colors: Old Gold & Black	
Columbus, OH			Nickname: Boilermakers 2005 Record: 5-6	
S.2 Northern Illinois				
S.9 @TEXAS 22-25				
S.16 Cincinnati				
S.23 Penn State 10-17				
S.30 @IOWA 31-6				
0.7 Bowling Green				
0.14 @MICHIGAN STATE 35-24				
0.21 Indiana 41-10				
0.28 Minnesota 45-31				
N.4 @ILLINOIS 40-2				
N.11 @NORTHWESTERN 48-7				
N.18 Michigan 25-21				
Coach: Jim Tressel Colors: Scarlet & Gray				
Nickname: Buckeyes 2005 Record: 9-2				
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>				
Norman, OK				
S.2 JAB				
S.9 Washington				
S.16 @OREGON				
S.23 Middle Tennessee State				
0.7 Texas* 12-45				
0.14 Iowa State				
0.21 Colorado				
0.28 @MISSOURI				
N.4 @TEXAS A&M 36-30				
N.11 Texas Tech 21-23				
N.18 @BAYLOR 37-30 (OT)				
S.25 @OKLAHOMA STATE 42-14				
*At Dallas, TX				
Coach: Bob Stoops Colors: Crimson & Cream				
Nickname: Sooners 2005 Record: 7-4				
<b>OKLAHOMA STATE</b>				
Stillwater, OK				
S.2 Missouri State				
S.9 @ARKANSAS STATE* 20-10				
S.16 Florida Atlantic 23-3				
S.23 @HOUSTON				
0.7 @KANSAS STATE				
0.14 @KANSAS				
0.21 Texas A&M 23-62				
0.28 Nebraska				
N.4 @TEXAS 28-47				
N.11 Baylor 34-44				
N.18 @TEXAS TECH 24-17				
N.25 Oklahoma 14-42				
*At Little Rock, AR				
Coach: Mike Gundy Colors: Orange & Black				
Nickname: Cowboys 2005 Record: 4-7				
<b>OREGON</b>				
Eugene, OR				
S.2 Stanford 44-20				
S.9 @FRESNO STATE 37-34				
S.16 Oklahoma				
S.30 @ARIZONA STATE 31-17				
0.7 @CALIFORNIA 27-20 (OT)				
0.14 UCLA				
0.21 @WASHINGTON STATE 34-31				
0.28 Portland State				
N.4 Washington 45-21				
N.11 @USC 13-45				
N.18 Arizona 28-21				
N.25 @OREGON STATE 56-14				
Coach: Mike Bellotti Colors: Emerald Green & Lemon Yellow				
Nickname: Ducks 2005 Record: 10-7				
<b>OREGON STATE</b>				
Corvallis, OR				
A.31 Eastern Washington				
S.7 @BOISE STATE 30-27				
S.23 Idaho				
S.30 California 23-20				
0.7 Washington State 44-33				
0.14 @WASHINGTON 18-10				
0.21 @ARIZONA 27-29				
0.28 USC				
N.4 Arizona State 24-42				
N.11 @UCLA 28-51				
N.18 @STANFORD 17-20				
Coach: Roger Hughes Colors: Orange & Black				
Nickname: Tigers 2005 Record: 7-3				
<b>PRINCETON</b>				
Princeton, NJ				
S.16 @LEHIGH				
S.23 Lafayette	23-21			
S.30 @COLUMBIA	43-3			
0.7 @COLGATE	10-16			
0.14 Brown	28-31			
0.28 @CORNELL	27-24			
0.11 @YALE	14-21			
N.4 Pennsylvania 30-13				
N.11 Dartmouth 30-0				
Coach: Roger Hughes Colors: Orange & Black				
Nickname: Panthers 2005 Record: 5-6				
<b>PORTLAND STATE</b>				
Portland, OR				
S.2 @NEW MEXICO				
S.9 Northern Colorado 41-17				
S.16 @CALIFORNIA				
S.23 @WEBER STATE				
S.30 Montana	39-14			
0.7 @MONTANA STATE	16-37			
0.14 Idaho State	44-41			
0.23 Eastern Washington	34-36			
N.4 @SOUTH FLORIDA	24-42			
N.11 @CONNECTICUT	24-0			
N.16 West Virginia	13-45			
N.25 Louisville	20-42			
Coach: Tim WashColors: Forest Green & White				
Nickname: Vikings 2005 Record: 6-5				
<b>PRATT VIEW ADM</b>				
Prattview, TX				
S.2 Texas Southern* 30-27				
S.9 Edward Waters				
S.16 Southern University*				
S.23 Concordia College	10-38			
S.30 @GRAMBLING STATE**	7-50			
0.7 Akom State	10-22			
0.14 Alabama State	13-34			
0.28 @MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	13-58			
N.4 Arkansas-Pine Bluff	34-47			
N.11 @ACKSON STATE	27-9			
N.18 @NORTHERN ARIZONA	45-0			
N.25 @SACRAMENTO STATE	28-12			
Coach: Tim Walsh Colors: Forest Green & White				
Nickname: Panthers 2005 Record: 5-6				
<b>PRAIRIE VIEW A&amp;M</b>				
Amarillo, TX				
S.2 @DAYTON				
S.9 Duquesne	12-23			
S.16 @BUTLER	49-13			
S.23 Rowan	28-35 (OT)			
S.30 @ST FRANCIS (PA)	28-35			
0.7 @WAGNER	30-30			
0.14 Central Connecticut State	14-21			
0.21 Monmouth	21-21			
0.28 @STONY BROOK	37-38			
N.4 Albany	17-20			
N.11 @SACRED HEART	20-27			
*At Dallas, TX				
Coach: Joe Walton Colors: Blue & White				
Nickname: Colonials 2005 Record: 2-8				
<b>RICHMOND</b>				
Richmond, VA				
S.2 @DUKE				
S.9 Virginia Military	18-35			
S.16 @FLORIDA STATE	21-53			
S.20 @ARMY	30-51			
S.7 @TULANE	42-34			
S.14 @UAB	26-45			
S.21 @UCF	28-31			
N.4 @UTEP	31-38			
N.11 @TULSA	21-41			
N.18 East Carolina	28-41			
N.25 Southern Methodist	7-27			
Coach: Todd Graham Colors: Blue & Gray				
Nickname: Owls 2005 Record: 1-10				
<b>RICHMOND</b>				
Richmond, VA				
S.2 @DUKE				
S.9 @GEORGIA TECH				
S.14 Austin Peay				
S.23 Eastern Illinois	14-43			
S.30 @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	33-17			
0.7 Northeastern	6-38			
S.14 @MURRAY STATE	27-23			
S.21 Tennessee-Martin	30-22			
S.28 @TENNESSEE STATE	31-11			
N.4 Tennessee Tech	21-42			
N.11 Jacksonville State	20-26			
Coach: Bill Gray Colors: Red & Blue				
Nickname: Bulldogs 2005 Record: 5-6				
<b>RICE</b>				
Houston, TX				
S.2 Houston	18-35			
S.9 @UCLA	21-53			
S.16 @FLORIDA STATE	10-51			
S.20 @ARMY	30-51			
S.7 @TULANE	42-34			
S.14 @UAB	26-45			
S.21 @UCF	28-31			
N.4 @UTEP	31-38			
N.11 @TULSA	21-41			
N.18 East Carolina	28-41			
N.25 Southern Methodist	7-27			
Coach: Todd Graham Colors: Blue & Gray				
Nickname: Owls 2005 Record: 1-10				
<b>RICE</b>				
Houston, TX				
S.2 @DUKE				
S.9 @GEORGIA TECH				
S.14 Austin Peay				
S.23 Eastern Illinois	14-43			
S.30 @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	33-17			
0.7 Northeastern	6-38			
S.14 @MURRAY STATE	27-23			
S.21 Tennessee-Martin	30-22			
S.28 @TENNESSEE STATE	31-11			
N.4 Tennessee Tech	21-42			
N.11 Jacksonville State	20-26			
Coach: Bill Gray Colors: Red & Blue				
Nickname: Bulldogs 2005 Record: 5-6				
<b>RUTHERS</b>				
Piscataway, NJ				
S.2 @NORTH CAROLINA				
S.9 Illinois	30-33 (OT)			
S.16 Ohio				
S.23 Howard				
S.29 @SOUTH FLORIDA	31-45			
0.14 @NAVY	31-21			
0.21 @PITTBURGH	37-29			
0.28 Connecticut	26-24			
N.9 Louisville	5-56			
N.18 @CINCINNATI	44-9			
N.25 Syracuse	31-9			
D.2 @WEST VIRGINIA	14-27			
Coach: Greg Schiano Colors: Scarlet & Black				
Nickname: Scarlet Knights 2005 Record: 7-4				
<b>RUTHERS</b>				
Piscataway, NJ				
S.2 @NORTH CAROLINA				
S.9 Illinois	30-33 (OT)			
S.16 Ohio				
S.23 Howard				
S.29 @SOUTH FLORIDA	31-45			
0.14 @NAVY	31-21			
0.21 @PITTBURGH	37-29			
0.28 Connecticut	26-24			
N.9 Louisville	5-56			
N.18 @CINCINNATI	44-9			
N.25 Syracuse	31-9			
D.2 @WEST VIRGINIA	14-27			
Coach: Chuck Long Colors: Scarlet & Black				
Nickname: Aztecs 2005 Record: 5-7				
<b>RUTHERS</b>				
Piscataway, NJ				
S.2 @NORTH CAROLINA				
S.9 Illinois	30-33 (OT)			
S.16 Ohio				
S.23 Howard				
S.29 @SOUTH FLORIDA	31-45			
0.14 @NAVY	31-21			
0.21 @PITTBURGH	37-29			
0.28 Connecticut	26-24			
N.9 Louisville	5-56			
N.18 @CINCINNATI	44-9			
N.25 Syracuse	31-9			
D.2 @WEST VIRGINIA	14-27			
Coach: Jim Leavitt Colors: Green & Gold				
Nickname: Bulls 2005 Record: 6-5				

\* RECORDS FOR REGULAR SEASON ONLY

## 2005 NCAAF SCHEDULES

### SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE

Cape Girardeau, MO
S.2 @AUSTIN PEAY
S.9 Missouri-Rolla
S.16 @JACKSONVILLE STATE 10-24
S.30 Samford 17-33
0.7 @EASTERN ILLINOIS 24-48
0.14 @ARKANSAS 24-31
0.21 Eastern Kentucky 32-33
0.28 @MURRAY STATE 52-21
N.4 Tennessee Martin 21-24
N.11 @TENNESSEE STATE 32-24
N.18 Tennessee Tech 24-31

Coach: Tony Samuel Colors: Red & Black  
Nickname: Redhawks 2005 Record: 2-9

### SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA

Hammont, LA
A.31 @NEW MEXICO STATE
S.9 @SOUTHERN MISS
S.16 Jacksonville
S.23 @TEXAS TECH
S.30 Gardner-Webb
0.7 @MICHIGAN STATE 28-38
0.14 Northwestern State 10-31
0.21 @TEXAS STATE 15-30
0.28 Stephen F. Austin 45-23
N.4 @MCNEESE STATE 37-13
N.11 Sam Houston State 18-35

Coach: Dennis Roland Colors: Cardinal, Silver & Black Nickname: Lions 2005 Record: 4-6

### SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Carbondale, IL
A.31 Lock Haven
S.16 @INDIANA
S.23 @ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF
S.30 Indiana State 42-20
0.7 Western Illinois 34-24
0.14 @ILLINOIS STATE 35-61
0.21 Western Kentucky 31-20
0.28 @MISSOURI STATE 3D-23 (OT)
N.4 @YOUNGSTOWN STATE 31-17
N.11 Northern Iowa 24-25
N.18 Southern Utah

Coach: Jerry Kill Colors: Maroon & White  
Nickname: Salukis 2005 Record: 9-4

### SOUTHERN METHODIST

Dallas, TX
S.2 @TEXAS TECH
S.9 @WORTH TEXAS
S.16 Sam Houston State
S.23 Arkansas State
S.30 @TULANE 10-31
0.7 @UTEP 40-27
0.14 Marshall 13-16 (OT)
0.21 @EAST CAROLINA 17-24
0.31 UAB 2B-27
N.11 Houston 29-24
N.18 Tulsa 13-20
N.25 @RICE 27-7

Coach: Phil Bennett Colors: Red & Blue  
Nickname: Mustangs 2005 Record: 5-6

### SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Hattiesburg, MS
S.2 @FLORIDA
S.9 Southeastern Louisiana
S.16 North Carolina State 17-21
S.26 @UCF 52-31
0.3 @TULSA 17-34
0.14 Houston 24-27
0.21 @VIRGINIA TECH
0.28 East Carolina 33-7
N.4 @MEMPHIS 22-24
N.11 @TULANE 26-7
N.18 UAB 37-28
N.25 Marshall 27-24 (OT)

Coach: Jeff Bowser Colors: Black & Gold  
Nickname: Golden Eagles 2005 Record: 6-5

### SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Baton Rouge, LA
S.2 Bethune-Cookman*
S.9 Mississippi Valley State 2B-31
S.16 @PRAIRIE VIEW A&M** 3B-0
S.23 North Carolina Central
S.30 Alabama State 35-45
0.7 @ACADEMY A&M 7-20
0.34 @JACKSON STATE 20-14
0.21 @ALCORN STATE 16-38
N.4 Texas Southern 44-20
N.11 Arkansas-Pine Bluff 27-21
N.25 @GRAMBLING STATE*** 35-50

\*At Jacksonville, FL  
\*\*At Houston, TX  
\*\*\*At New Orleans, LA

Coach: Pete Richardson Colors: Blue & Gold  
Nickname: Jags 2005 Record: 4-5

### SOUTHERN UTAH

Cedar City, UT
S.2 Montana Tech
S.9 Western State
S.16 @WEBER STATE 10-27
S.23 Texas State 0-34
S.30 @CAL POLY 10-20
0.7 @MCNEESE STATE 0-7
0.21 @CALIFORNIA-DAVIS 21-33
0.28 North Dakota State 21-37
N.11 South Dakota State 7-55
N.18 @SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Coach: Wes Moore Colors: Scarlet, Royal & White Nickname: Thunderbirds 2005 Record: 7-9

### SYRACUSE

Syracuse, NY
S.2 @WARE FOREST
S.9 Iowa
S.16 @ILLINOIS 17-34
S.23 Miami (OH) 0-27
S.30 Wyoming 0-27
0.7 Pittsburgh 17-34
0.14 @WEST VIRGINIA 7-15
0.21 Louisville 17-41
0.28 @CINCINNATI 16-22
N.11 @SOUTH FLORIDA 0-27
N.18 Connecticut 7-26
N.25 @RUTGERS 9-31

Coach: Greg Robinson Colors: Orange & White Nickname: Orange 2005 Record: 1-10

### TENNESSEE-MARTIN

Martin, TN
S.2 @OHIO
S.7 Urbana
S.16 Gardner-Webb 31-28
S.23 Jacksonville State 17-37
S.30 @AUSTIN PEAY 46-16
S.7 @TENNESSEE TECH 22-30
S.28 Eastern Illinois 7-26
N.4 @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE 24-21
N.11 Eastern Kentucky 17-31
N.18 @MURRAY STATE 49-20

Coach: Jason Simpson Colors: Orange, Blue & White Nickname: Skyhawks 2005 Record: 6-5

### TOLEDO

Toledo, OH
S.31 @IOWA STATE
S.9 @WESTERN MICHIGAN 56-23
S.15 Kansas
S.23 McNeese State
S.30 @PITTBURGH
0.7 Central Michigan 17-21
0.14 @KENT STATE
0.21 @EASTERN MICHIGAN 3D-3
0.28 Akron
N.7 @NORTHERN ILLINOIS 17-35
N.14 Ball State 34-14
N.21 Bowling Green 44-41 (OT)
Coach: Tom Amstutz Colors: Midnight Blue & Gold Nickname: Rockets 2005 Record: 8-3

### TOWSON

Towson, MD
S.2 Morgan State 29-26
S.9 @ELON
S.16 Liberty 38-17
S.23 @HOFSTRA
0.7 Maine
0.14 Massachusetts 40-19
0.21 @VILLANOVA
0.28 @DELAWARE 35-31
N.4 William & Mary 13-44
N.11 @RICHMOND 21-48
N.18 James Madison 14-55
Coach: Garry Camba Colors: White, Gold & Black Nickname: Tigers 2005 Record: 6-5

### TROY

Troy, AL
S.2 Alabama State
S.9 @FLORIDA STATE
S.16 @GEORGIA TECH
S.23 @NEBRASKA
S.30 @LAW 7-27
0.14 Louisiana-Monroe 3-27
0.28 North Texas 13-10
N.4 Oklahoma 3D-36
N.11 Nebraska 3D-36
N.24 @TEXAS 29-40
At San Antonio, TX
At Dallas, TX
Coach: Mack Brown Colors: White & Burnt Orange Nickname: Longhorns 2005 Record: 12-0

### TEXAS A&M

College Station, TX
S.2 Citadel
S.9 Louisiana-Lafayette
S.16 Army*
S.23 Louisiana Tech
S.30 Texas Tech 17-56
0.7 @KANSAS
0.14 Missouri
0.21 @OKLAHOMA STATE 62-23
0.28 @Baylor 16-13 (OT)
N.4 Oklahoma 3D-36
N.11 Nebraska 3D-36
N.24 @TEXAS 29-40
At San Antonio, TX
At Dallas, TX
Coach: Dennis Franchione Colors: Maroon & White Nickname: Aggies 2005 Record: 5-6

### TEXAS SOUTHERN

Houston, TX
S.2 @PRAIRIE VIEW A&M* 27-30
S.9 @ALABAMA STATE 15-27
S.16 @NEW MEXICO STATE
S.23 Alabama A&M 17-7
N.11 Arkansas 21-24
N.18 @VANDERBILT 22-29
N.25 Kentucky 28-35
N.4 @SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY 21-58
N.11 @TEXAS STATE 20-44
N.18 @ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF 23-40

At Houston, TX

Coach: Steve Wilson Colors: Maroon & Gray Nickname: Tigers 2005 Record: 7-10

### TEXAS STATE

San Marcos, TX
S.2 Tarleton State
S.9 @KENTUCKY
S.16 Northern Colorado
S.23 @SOUTHERN UTAH 34-0
N.10 Stephen F. Austin 38-21
0.14 @MCNEESE STATE 49-7
0.21 Southeastern Louisiana 30-15
0.28 @NORTHWESTERN STATE 31-16
N.4 Nicholls State 29-32 (OT)
N.11 Texas Southern
N.18 @SAM HOUSTON STATE 26-23 (OT)
Coach: David Boillat Colors: Maroon & Gold Nickname: Bobcats 2005 Record: 11-3

### TEXAS TECH

Jubbock, TX
S.2 Southern Methodist
S.9 @UTEP
S.16 @TCU
S.23 Southeastern Louisiana
S.30 @TEXAS A&M 56-17
N.7 Missouri
N.18 @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE 31-24
0.14 @COLORADO
0.21 @IOWA STATE
0.28 Texas 17-52

\*RECORDS FOR REGULAR SEASON ONLY

0.31	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	27-28
N.10	JTEP	35-23
N.18	@SOUTHERN MUSS	28-37
N.25	@UIC	21-27
Coach:	Watson-Brown Colors: Green, Gold & White	Nickname: Blazers 2005 Record: 3-6

UCF		
Orlando, FL		
S.2	Villanova	
S.9	@FLORIDA	
S.16	South Florida	14-31
S.26	Southern Miss	31-52
O.4	@MARSHALL	23-13
O.13	Pittsburgh	5.9
O.21	Rice	31-28
O.28	@HOUSTON	31-29
N.4	East Carolina	30-20
N.11	@MEMPHIS	38-17
N.18	@TULANE	34-24
N.25	UAB	27-21
Coach:	George O'Leary Colors: Gold & Black	Nickname: Golden Knights 2005 Record: 8-4

UCLA		
Los Angeles, CA		
S.2	Utah	63-21
S.23	@WASHINGTON	21-17
S.30	Stanford	30-27 (OT)
O.7	Arizona	14-52
O.14	@OREGON	
O.21	@NOTRE DAME	
O.28	Washington State	44-41 (OT)
N.4	@CALIFORNIA	47-40
N.11	Oregon State	51-28
N.18	@ARIZONA STATE	45-35
D.2	USC	19-66
Coach:	Karl Dorrell Colors: Blue & Gold	Nickname: Bruins 2005 Record: 9-2

UNLV		
Las Vegas, NV		
S.2	Idaho State	
S.9	@IOWA STATE	
S.16	@HAWAII	
S.30	Nevada	14-22
O.7	@COLORADO STATE	27-31
O.14	New Mexico	22-24
O.21	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	14-55
O.28	UTAH	32-42
N.4	TCU	3-51
N.11	@SAN DIEGO STATE	13-10
N.18	Wyoming	17-42
N.24	Air Force	7-42
Coach:	Mike Sanford Colors: Scarlet & Gray	Nickname: Rebels 2005 Record: 2-9

USC		
Los Angeles, CA		
S.2	@ARKANSAS	70-17
S.16	Nebraska	
S.23	@ARIZONA	42-21
S.30	@WASHINGTON STATE	55-13
O.7	Washington	51-24
O.14	Arizona State	38-28
O.28	@OREGON STATE	
N.4	@STANFORD	51-21
N.11	Oregon	45-13
N.18	California	35-10
N.25	Notre Dame	34-21
D.2	@UCLA	66-19
Coach:	Pete Carroll Colors: Cardinal & Gold	Nickname: Trojans 2005 Record: 12-0

UTAH		
Salt Lake City, UT		
S.2	@UCLA	
S.9	Northern Arizona	
S.16	@UTAH STATE	31-7
S.23	@SAN DIEGO STATE	19-28
S.30	Baylor State	
O.5	TCU	20-23 (OT)
O.14	@WYOMING	43-13
O.19	@NEW MEXICO	27-31
O.28	JULY	42-32
N.11	Colorado State	17-21
N.18	@AIR FORCE	38-35
N.25	Bryham Young	41-34 (OT)
Coach:	Kyle Whittingham Colors: Crimson & White	Nickname: Utes 2005 Record: 6-5

UTAH STATE		
Laramie, UT		
S.2	@WYOMING	
S.9	ARKANSAS	
S.16	Utah	7-31
S.23	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	
S.30	Idaho	13-27

0.7	Fresno State	21-53
O.14	@SAN JOSE STATE	24-17
O.21	@LOUISIANA TECH	17-27
N.4	Hawaii	23-50
N.11	@NEVADA	24-30
N.18	@BOISE STATE	21-45
N.25	New Mexico State	24-21
Coach:	Brent Guy Colors: Navy Blue & White	Nickname: Aggies 2005 Record: 3-8

0.7	James Madison	5.30
O.21	@ARMY	0.7
O.28	Coastal Carolina	14-38
N.4	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	34-12
N.11	@GARDNER WEBB	52-55 (OT)
N.18	@CATADEL	14-22
N.25	Liberty	10-7
Coach:	Tim Reid Colors: Red, White & Yellow	Nickname: Keydets 2005 Record: 3-8

S.16	Southern Utah	27-10
S.23	Portland State	14-39
S.29	Northern Colorado	0.7
O.7	@SACRAMENTO STATE	26-14
O.14	Montana	19-24
O.21	@MONTANA STATE	24-27
N.4	Eastern Washington	28-23
N.11	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	31-23
N.18	@IDANIA STATE	30-21
Coach:	Jon McBride Colors: Royal Purple & White	Nickname: Wildcats 2005 Record: 6-5

S.23	Virginia Military	41-7
S.30	Hofstra	0.7
S.21	@MASSACHUSETTS	56-0
S.28	LIBERTY	29-30
N.4	@JAMES MADISON	21-35
N.11	@TOWSON	44-13
N.18	@DELaware	21-22
N.25	Richmond	7-41
Coach:	Jimmye Laycock Colors: Green, Gold & Silver	Nickname: Tribe 2005 Record: 5-6

UTEP		
EI Paso, TX		
A.31	@SAN DIEGO STATE	21-13
S.9	Texas Tech	5.9
S.23	@NEW MEXICO	21-13
S.30	New Mexico State	34-17
O.7	Southern Methodist	27-40
O.14	Tulane	45-21
O.21	@HOUSTON	44-41 (OT)
N.4	Rice	41-38
N.11	@TULSA	38-31
N.18	Rice	23-35
N.25	@MARSHALL	31-3
N.25	Memphis	29-27
Coach:	Mike Price Colors: Orange, Blue & White	Nickname: Miners 2005 Record: 8-3

S.2	Northwestern	30-3
S.9	@NORTH CAROLINA	45-0
S.16	Duke	5.2
S.23	Cincinnati	51-7
S.30	Georgia Tech	30-10
O.7	@BOSTON COLLEGE	0.7
O.14	Southern Miss	21-21
O.21	Florida	14-0
N.4	@WAKE FOREST	7-27
N.11	Virginia	52-14
N.18	Virginia	52-14
Coach:	Rich Beamer Colors: Burnt Orange & Chicago Maroon	Nickname: Hokies 2005 Record: 10-2

S.2	MONTGOMERY	1
S.9	Montgomery	1
S.16	Alabama	1
S.23	Montgomery	1
S.30	Montgomery	1
O.7	@MONTGOMERY	1
O.14	Montgomery	1
O.21	Montgomery	1
N.4	Montgomery	1
N.11	Montgomery	1
N.18	Montgomery	1
N.25	Montgomery	1
Coach:	Rich Rodriguez Colors: Old Gold & Blue	Nickname: Mountaineers 2005 Record: 10-1

S.2	WISCONSIN	56-42
S.9	Western Illinois	56-42
S.16	San Diego State	56-42
S.23	@MICHIGAN	23-20
S.30	@INDIANA	41-24
O.7	Northwestern	48-51
O.14	Minnesota	38-34
O.21	@PURDUE	31-20
N.4	Cincinnati	38-0
N.11	Pittsburgh	45-13
N.18	South Florida	28-13
N.25	Rutgers	27-14
Coach:	Rich Rodriguez Colors: Old Gold & Blue	Nickname: Mountaineers 2005 Record: 10-1

S.2	WEST VIRGINIA	
S.9	Morgantown, WV	
S.16	West Virginia	
S.23	@WEST VIRGINIA	
S.30	West Virginia	
O.7	West Virginia	
O.14	West Virginia	
O.21	West Virginia	
N.4	West Virginia	
N.11	West Virginia	
N.18	West Virginia	
N.25	West Virginia	
Coach:	Bret Bielema Colors: Cardinal & White	Nickname: Mountaineers 2005 Record: 9-3

S.2	WESTERN CAROLINA	
S.9	Charlotte, NC	
S.16	Western Carolina	
S.23	@WESTERN CAROLINA	
S.30	Western Carolina	
O.7	Western Carolina	
O.14	Western Carolina	
O.21	Western Carolina	
N.4	Western Carolina	
N.11	Western Carolina	
N.18	Western Carolina	
N.25	Western Carolina	
Coach:	Jon Patterson Colors: Purple and Gold	Nickname: Catamounts 2005 Record: 5-6

S.2	WESTERN ILLINOIS	
S.9	Bowling Green, KY	
S.16	@GEORGIA	
S.23	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	23-21
S.30	Western Illinois	42-7
O.7	Illinois State	37-4 (OT)
O.14	@MISSOURI STATE	37-28
O.21	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	20-31
O.28	Indiana State	38-28
N.4	@NORTHERN IOWA	20-20 (OT)
N.11	Youngstown State	10-42
N.18	Austin Peay	
N.25	Hopppers	5-5
Coach:	Joe Glenn Colors: Brown & Yellow	Nickname: Cowboys 2005 Record: 4-7

S.2	WESTERN KENTUCKY	
S.9	Bowling Green, KY	
S.16	@GEORGIA	
S.23	@VIRGINIA	
S.30	Western Kentucky	
O.7	Western Kentucky	
O.14	Western Kentucky	
O.21	Western Kentucky	
N.4	Western Kentucky	
N.11	Western Kentucky	
N.18	Western Kentucky	
N.25	Western Kentucky	
Coach:	Joe Glenn Colors: Brown & Yellow	Nickname: Cowboys 2005 Record: 4-7

S.2	WESTERN MICHIGAN	
S.9	Kalamazoo, MI	
S.16	@INDIANA	
S.23	Toledo	23-56
S.30	@VIRGINIA	29-31
O.7	Temple	19-18
O.14	Ohio	7-42
O.21	@OHIO STATE	57-60 (OT)
N.4	Eastern Michigan	44-36
N.11	Miami (OH)	
N.18	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	31-24
N.25	Akron	
Coach:	Bill Cubit Colors: Brown & Gold	Nickname: Broncos 2005 Record: 7-4



# 2006-07 BOWL SCHEDULE

## LAST BOWL

Jan. 1, 2007 (Glendale, Ariz.)  
BCS vs. BCS  
8:30 p.m. FOX

## RANGE BOWL

Jan. 2, 2007 (Miami)  
BCS vs. BCS  
8:00 p.m. FOX

## ROSE BOWL

Jan. 3, 2007 (Pasadena, Calif.)  
BCS vs. BCS  
5:00 p.m. ABC

## ORANGE BOWL

Jan. 3, 2007 (New Orleans)  
BCS vs. BCS  
8:00 p.m. FOX

## BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Jan. 8, 2007 (Glendale, Ariz.)  
No. 1 BCS vs. No. 2 BCS  
FOX

### POINSETTIA BOWL

Dec. 19, 2006 (San Diego)  
MWC vs. at-large  
8:00 p.m. ESPN2

### NEW MEXICO BOWL

Dec. 23, 2006 (Albuquerque, N.M.)  
MWC vs. WAC  
4:30 p.m. ESPN

### CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL

Dec. 29, 2006 (Orlando)  
Big Ten vs. ACC  
8:00 p.m. ESPN

### MPC COMPUTERS BOWL

Dec. 31, 2006 (Boise, Idaho)  
ACC vs. WAC  
7:30 p.m. ESPN

### GMAC BOWL

Dec. 20, 2006 (Mobile, Ala.)  
C-USA vs. MAC/WAC  
8:00 p.m. ESPN

### HAWAII BOWL

Dec. 24, 2006 (Honolulu)  
WAC vs. Pac-10  
8:00 p.m. ESPN

### INSIGHT BOWL

Dec. 29, 2006 (Phoenix)  
Pac-10 vs. Big 12  
TBA NFL Network

### ALAMO BOWL

Late Dec., details TBA (San Antonio)  
Big Ten vs. Big 12  
TBA ESPN

### LAS VEGAS BOWL

Dec. 21, 2006 (Las Vegas, Nev.)  
Pac-10 vs. MWC  
8:00 p.m. ESPN

### MOTOR CITY BOWL

Dec. 26, 2006 (Detroit)  
MAC vs. Big Ten  
7:30 p.m. ESPN

### MUSIC CITY BOWL

Dec. 29, 2006 (Nashville)  
ACC vs. SEC  
TBA ESPN

### LIBERTY BOWL

Late Dec., details TBA (Memphis)  
C-USA vs. SEC  
TBA ESPN

### NEW ORLEANS BOWL

Dec. 22, 2006 (New Orleans)  
Sun Belt vs. C-USA  
8:00 p.m. ESPN2

### EMERALD BOWL

Dec. 27, 2006 (San Francisco)  
Pac-10 vs. ACC  
8:00 p.m. ESPN

### SUN BOWL

Dec. 29, 2006 (El Paso, Texas)  
Pac-10 vs. Big East/Big 12  
2:00 p.m. CBS

### CAPITAL ONE BOWL

Jan. 1, 2007 (Orlando)  
Big Ten vs. SEC  
1:00 p.m. ABC

### BIRMINGHAM BOWL

Dec. 23, 2006 (Birmingham, Ala.)  
Big East vs. C-USA  
1:00 p.m. ESPN2

### INDEPENDENCE BOWL

Dec. 27, 2006 (Shreveport, La.)  
SEC vs. Big 12  
4:30 p.m. ESPN

### CHICK-FIL-A BOWL

Dec. 30, 2006 (Atlanta)  
ACC vs. SEC  
8:00 p.m. ESPN

### COTTON BOWL

Jan. 1, 2007 (Dallas)  
Big 12 vs. SEC  
11:30 a.m. Fox

### FORT WORTH BOWL

Dec. 23, 2006 (Fort Worth, Texas)  
MWC vs. C-USA  
8:00 p.m. ESPN

### HOLIDAY BOWL

Dec. 28, 2006 (San Diego)  
Pac-10 vs. Big 12  
8:00 p.m. ESPN

### MEINEKE CAR CARE BOWL

Dec. 30, 2006 (Charlotte, N.C.)  
ACC vs. Big East  
1:00 p.m. ESPN

### GATOR BOWL

Jan. 1, 2007 (Jacksonville, Fla.)  
ACC vs. Big East/Big 12  
1:00 p.m. NBC

### OUTBACK BOWL

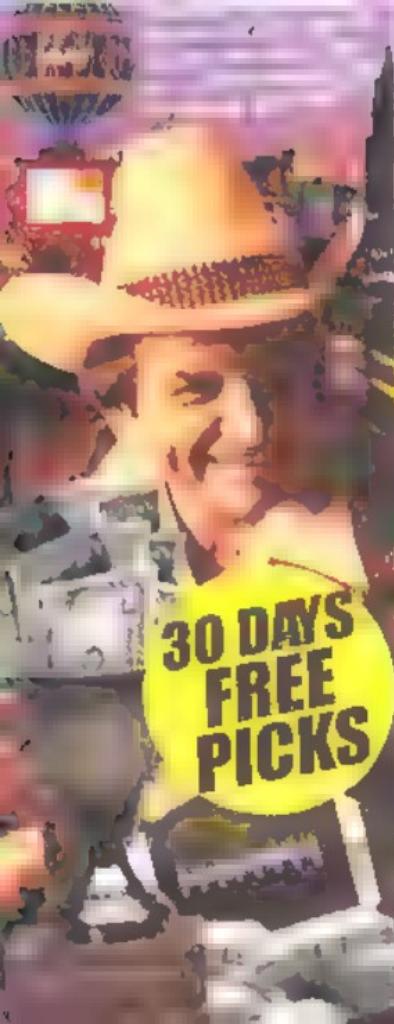
Jan. 1, 2007 (Tampa)  
Big Ten vs. SEC  
11:00 a.m. ESPN

### INTERNATIONAL BOWL

Jan. 6, 2007 (Toronto)  
Big East vs. MAC  
12:00 p.m. ESPN2



ALL TIMES EASTERN



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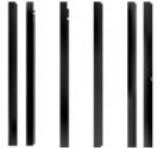
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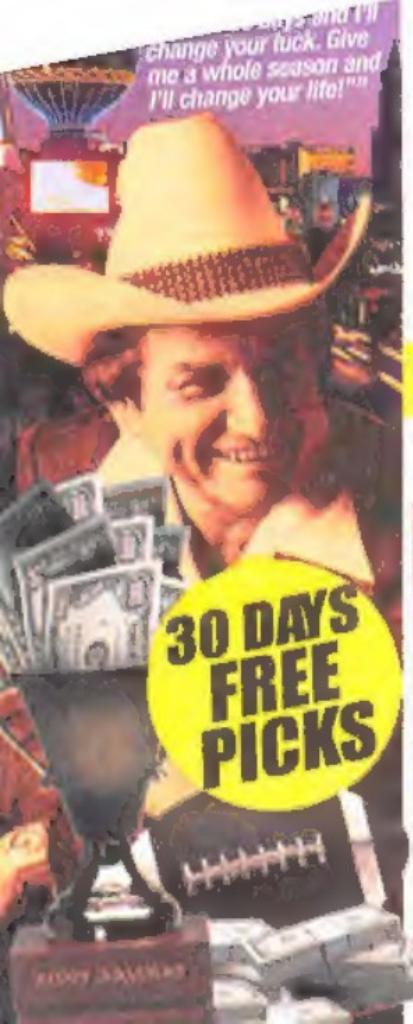
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State

Zip

Phone

Email

**YES!** Sign up my buddy too, and give me an extra 30 days!

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State

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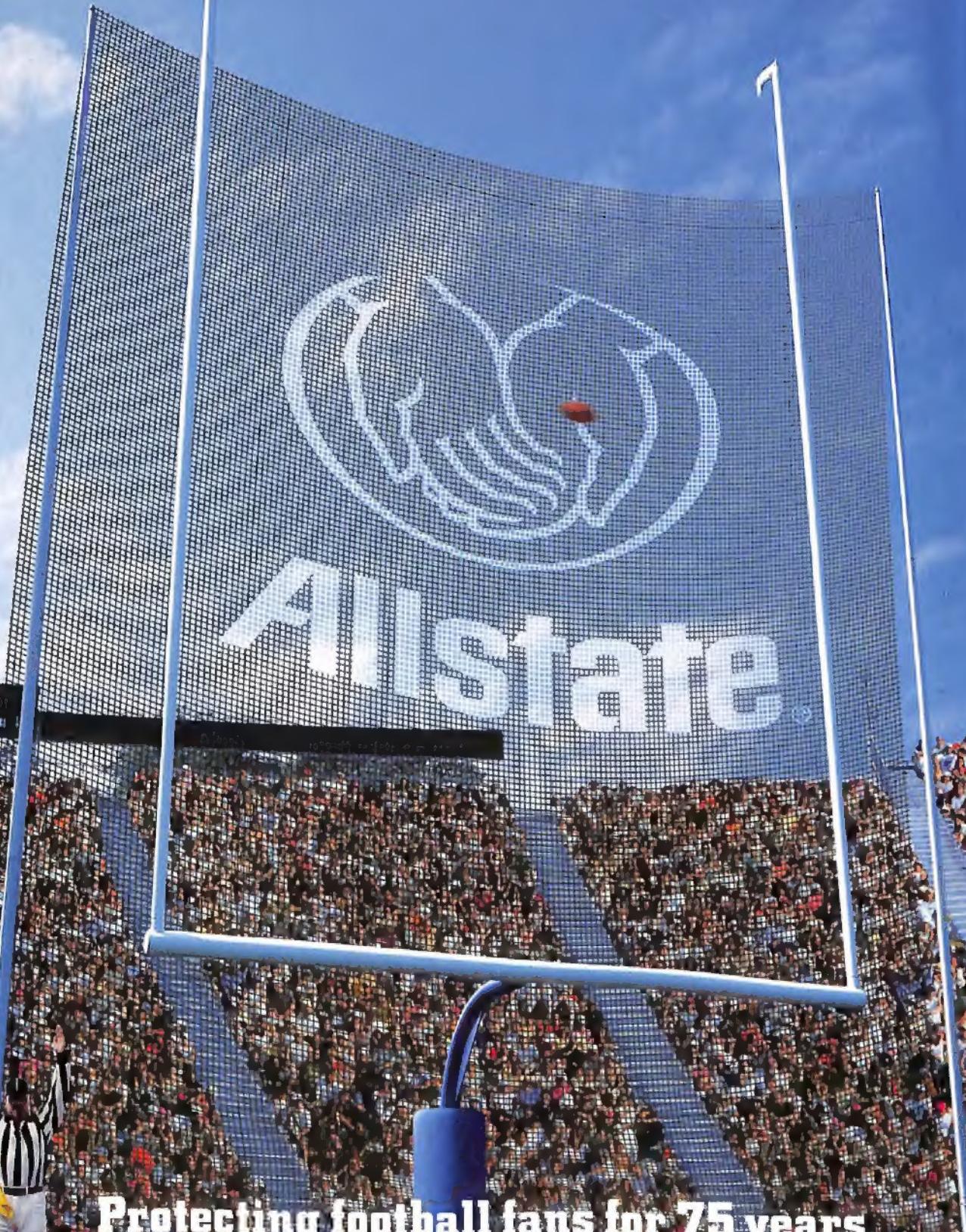
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